



THE INDEPENDENT

No. 3,832 FRIDAY 29 JANUARY 1999 (TR50p) 45p

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Graham Kelly:
lay off the ref
SEVEN PAGES OF SPORT

Dr Margaret:
Swampy in a
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Bad taste
jokes: how far
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IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW



Photographers' stepladders outside the Ritz hotel in London yesterday before the 50th birthday party of Annabel Elliot, an art dealer Peter Macdiarmid

Lawrence family lawyers to be censured in inquiry report

THE CRUSADING left-wing barrister Michael Mansfield will be criticised in the report of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry for his role in the ill-fated private prosecution mounted by the murdered teenager's parents.

In a controversial finding that is certain to infuriate the Lawrences, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, chairman of the public inquiry, plans to question Mr Mansfield's professional judgement in allowing the family to pursue the case.

The family's solicitor, Imran Khan, who has a reputation for championing high-profile anti-establishment cases, faces similar criticism over the private prosecution, which led to three of the five prime suspects being acquitted of Stephen's murder.

Sir William's report is in its final stages and is expected to be delivered to the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, next week. The *Independent* understands from legal sources that Mr Mansfield, a QC, and Mr Khan received letters before Christmas warning them that they would be censured in the report, which will be published in mid-February. They are understood to have made a spirited defence of their actions in written responses to Sir William and his advisers.

Neville and Doreen Lawrence, Stephen's parents, embarked on the private prosecution - such a rare course of action that it was only the fourth case in 130 years - after the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) discontinued its case against the five suspects: Jamie Acourt, Neil Acourt, David Norris, Gary Dobson and Luke Knight.

Three of them, Knight, Dobson and Neil Acourt, stood trial at the Old Bailey in 1998. But Mr Mansfield, who led the prosecution, was compelled to abandon the case after the judge, Mr Justice Curtis, ruled that crucial identification evidence by the main witness, Duwayne Brooks, was inadmissible. Mr Brooks, Stephen's schoolfriend, was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress after the murder, and Mr Justice Curtis said his evidence was "contaminated" and unreliable. On the judge's direction, the three defendants were formally acquitted and, under English law, can never again be tried for the same offence - even if compelling new evidence were to emerge.

The publicity that accompanied the private prosecution - not to mention the subsequent inquest and public inquiry - would almost certainly enable the other two men to argue that they could not now receive a fair trial.

Stephen, 18, was stabbed to death by a white gang in an unprovoked racist attack as he and Mr Brooks were waiting for a bus in Eltham, south-east London, in April 1993. Sir William's report will criticise 23 Metropolitan Police officers over the bungled murder investigation.

Mr Khan declined to comment last night, and Mr Mansfield failed to return telephone calls. Both men are believed to be angry at the prospect of being criticised by Sir William, a retired High Court judge.

The Lawrences are bound to be upset by the attack on their lawyers, who have spearheaded their six-year campaign for justice and become close family friends in the process.

Mr Khan became the family's representative in the immediate aftermath of the murder, while Mr Mansfield's involvement dates from late 1993. They are both thought to have waived their fees during certain periods.

The wisdom of launching the private prosecution has been questioned repeatedly over the years, since the evidence of Mr Brooks - who witnessed the murder - was always known to be problematic.

Stephen's parents maintain they had no choice but to take action themselves after the CPS discontinued its case against the suspects in July 1993.

After Knight, Dobson and Neil Acourt were committed for trial in 1995, Mrs Lawrence described the CPS's decision to drop the charges as "an act as hurtful and as painful in its effect as the news that Stephen had been killed".

The Lawrences still hold the view, publicly at least, that the three men would be behind bars if the matter had been left to the Old Bailey jury.

Howard Youngerwood, the senior CPS lawyer who took the decision to discontinue the original prosecution, launched a strong attack on Mr Mansfield and Mr Khan at the public inquiry.

He said that by insisting on going ahead with the private prosecution they had wrecked all chance of bringing Stephen's killers to justice. There had been no hope of a conviction on the evidence available, he said.

Top lawyers who could not convict, page 4

Massacre ordered at top level in Belgrade, says US

THE MASSACRE of Albanian villagers in the village of Racak in Kosovo this month was ordered at the highest level of the Serbian government, according to leaked Western intelligence that may provide the final trigger for Nato bombing.

The transcripts are of telephone conversations between Nikola Sainovic, a deputy prime minister, and General Sreten Lukic of the Serbian Interior Ministry special forces, and were obtained from intelligence sources by *The Washington Post*. Serbia has been accused of sending "hit squads" of sketched special forces into Kosovo to terrorise the local population.

The transcripts show Serbian security forces were ordered to "go in heavy" at Racak, the village in southern Kosovo where 46 people were killed on 15 January. Mr Sainovic is said to have called General Lukic as the bloody assault was going on, and asked how many people had been killed.

The massacre at Racak was the worst in nearly two years of bitter conflict between the Serbian authorities and guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army. Amid international outrage and demands that Nato should carry out its threats of military action, the two men discussed several times how to deflect blame for the bloodshed, according to the transcripts.

The newspaper did not say how it obtained the transcripts. But experts in US signals intelligence say there are many ways Washington could have come by the telephone messages. The US maintains an extensive range of intelligence facilities across Europe, and if the message had at any time used a microwave or satellite signal, it could have been intercepted.

The National Security Agency, based near Washington, runs the US signals intelligence programme worldwide. The very secretive Special Collection Service also gathers signals intelligence, and has been reported to run some of its operations from US embassies. "It is extremely unusual for sensitive intelligence, particularly of this sort, to be publicly available," said John Pike of the Federation of American Scientists. One suggestion was that the US considered the diplomatic benefit to be greater than the loss of a possible source of intelligence.

The leaked US revelations will add pressure on Europe to take action against Serbia.

In Brussels yesterday, Nato's Secretary-General, Javier Solana, said the alliance "stands ready to act and rules out no option" at this "a critical turning point in the Kosovo crisis". Nato diplomats said the six-nation Contact Group, which meets today in London, would call on the parties to agree to talks within four days. The Nato Council is to meet tomorrow to back up that initiative with a military ultimatum.

Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the UN, also said the military threat was needed in order to back up the diplomatic initiative. "I am pushing very hard for a political settlement," Mr Annan said in Brussels.

In Kosovo, the violence continued in the west of the province yesterday with Serb troops killing five Kosovo Liberation Army fighters in two clashes. The clashes took place south of Prizren and near Djakovica, 12 miles south-west of Prizren.

Nato's final warning, page 13

Mandelson des. res. up for sale

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

PETER MANDELSON is to sell the £750,000 house in west London's fashionable Notting Hill that led to his downfall as a cabinet minister last month.

Mr Mandelson, who stands to make a £300,000 profit on the house in just two years, will buy a flat. But he is unlikely to move to a more downmarket area; friends suggest he will stay in or close to Notting Hill.

The former Trade and Industry Secretary will use the proceeds to pay off the £373,000 personal loan from Geoffrey Robinson, the former Paymaster-General, which enabled him to buy the four-storey Victorian terrace house for £475,000. He also took out a mortgage with the Britannia Building Society.

Last month's disclosure of their arrangement provoked the resignations of both men and the departure of Charlie Whelan as press secretary to the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Mr Mandelson hopes the decision will enhance his prospects of returning to the Cabinet before the next general election. He said yesterday: "I want to repay Geoffrey Robinson's loan because that's the right thing to do... It is a necessary step to sort everything out."

Mr Mandelson said of his house: "It's not huge, but it is nice, in a good street with smashing neighbours, and I will miss it."



The house: Likely to be sold at a £300,000 profit

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THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Australia	6.00 AM	Israel	12.00 PM
Austria	6.00 AM	Italy	5.00 PM
Belgium	9.00 PM	Latvia	6.00 PM
Canada	3.50 PM	Malta	8.00 PM
Czech	1.00 PM	Netherlands	5.50 PM
Czech Republic	11.00 AM	Norway	26.00 PM
Denmark	15.00 PM	Portugal	3.00 PM
Finland	10.00 PM	Singapore	3.00 PM
France	10.00 PM	Spain	2.00 PM
Germany	2.50 PM	Sweden	21.00 PM
Greece	10.30 PM	Switzerland	5.00 PM
Hungary	7.00 PM	Turkey	1.50 PM
Ireland	2.00 PM	USA	3.00 PM

WILL YOU HELP THE CHILDREN OF COLOMBIA?

Thousands of children have been left homeless in the aftermath of the worst earthquake in Colombian history. With clean water and shelter in short supply, the risk of epidemics is growing every day. These children desperately need your help.

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, has long experience of working in Colombia, and is distributing survival kits containing essential first aid supplies, blankets, tents and water containers.

But because of the scale of the disaster, we urgently need your help to provide the children with emergency relief, and support to rebuild their lives over the coming months.

Please send what you can to help the children of Colombia.

unicef

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Not valid for cash donations. No cash donations please. No cash donations please. No cash donations please.

IN THE INDEPENDENT ON SATURDAY

The 50 best places to eat

Vegetarian food in THE INFORMATION

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO STAYING IN AND GOING OUT IN THE WEEK AHEAD

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MURRAY, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, DEBORAH ORR, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, SU SANNAI FRANKEL, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITMAN SMITH

Dobson's raid for nurses' pay rise

FRANK DOBSON, the Secretary of State for Health, is to raid the £1bn NHS modernisation fund to pay for inflation-busting pay rises for nurses as part of the Government's drive to deal with the crisis in hospitals.

Rises averaging 3.5 to 4 per cent for Britain's 1.25 million public sector workers will be announced on Monday, including civil servants, GPs, teachers, judges and the armed forces.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, said the rises were "affordable and right" but he insisted the Treasury's spending allocations to the Whitehall departments would not be changed to pay for the rises, which exceed the Treasury's 2.5 per cent inflation target.

The Chancellor is expected to give a further boost to all low paid workers in the Budget, on 9 March, by establishing a 10p lower rate of income tax for hundreds of thousands on low incomes who are currently paying 20p in the pound. It could be funded by abolishing the £2bn mortgage interest tax relief.

The Cabinet yesterday agreed to give the biggest pay rises to trainee nurses to try to tackle the nurse shortages in hospitals across Britain, which have contributed to the plight of patients being left on trolleys for more than 24 hours.

Rises of 11 per cent for nurse trainees and 4.7 per cent for most nurses are to be paid in full from 1 April. Family doctors are expected to get around 3.5 per cent and some GPs will qualify for an additional 4 per cent held over from last year.

Mr Dobson will delay the announcement until Monday to

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

gain the maximum impact for the launch of a £1m advertising campaign to recruit nurses to the NHS, which has been forced to hire nurses from the Philippines.

But Mr Dobson came under fire last night when it emerged he will use some of the £1bn allocated in the comprehensive spending review for modernisation in the health service to fund the nurses' pay rises.

"It's bad because the money was allocated for modernising the NHS which is desperately needed. There are buildings falling down, as well as general practices that need to be upgraded. The pay rises should have been funded from the surpluses in the Treasury, not from the modernisation fund," said Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on health.

Government sources said the use of the modernisation fund would allow the pay rises for the NHS to be paid in full.

MPs will also get inflation-busting pay rises linked to the average rises for civil servants, but pay review reports for junior ministers in the Lords are being delayed. No decision has yet been reached on pay rises for Cabinet ministers, but some Cabinet ministers are upset they will lose out for the third year in a row.

Ann Widdecombe, the Tory spokeswoman on health, yesterday warned against underfunding the pay rises in the NHS to avoid higher pay hitting patient care.

Paying for health, page 10



Kate MacGregor of Help the Aged at Leeds City Art Gallery launching a project with British Gas to stop the cold killing the old Tim Smith

Trimble accuses IRA of murder

ULSTER UNIONIST party leader David Trimble yesterday accused the mainstream IRA of murdering former republican supergrass Eamon Collins.

The RUC said Mr Collins had been killed by people using the methods of "primitive cave-men". The police would not be drawn into speculation on whether he had been killed by the IRA or by other republicans, though they said he had suffered such dreadful injuries that they had advised Mr Collins's wife not to view the body.

Heated political controversy meanwhile continued over the Rev Ian Paisley's action in the Commons on Wednesday when

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

under cover of parliamentary privilege, he named more than a dozen men who he said had been involved in the killing of Protestants in 1976.

The Democratic Unionist party leader claimed the men had been named in an RUC document as being involved in the so-called Kingsmill massacre in south Armagh. The RUC said yesterday it was attempting to check the authenticity of the document.

While Mr Paisley received support from some quarters he was criticised by SDLP deputy leader Seamus Mallon and by

one of the men he named, who challenged him to repeat the allegations outside the Commons.

Mr Mallon said: "I am very angry about this. It puts people's lives at risk and takes away their good name." He said he personally knew many of the individuals involved "and it is inconceivable that they would have been involved in the Kingsmill massacre or any form of paramilitary activity."

One of those named was a 51-year-old father of seven, Eugene Reavey, who lost three brothers in a loyalist attack on the day before the Kingsmill shootings. Saying he was horrified by Mr Paisley's accusa-

tions, he went on: "I'm an innocent man. I have never been involved in terrorism in my life. I have never even been questioned by the RUC. I find it all incredible."

His solicitor Rory McShane, added: "We are going to ask for a meeting with the RUC Chief Constable to discuss the issue of Mr Reavey's personal security which is now in jeopardy. We want to ask the Chief Constable whether this document really does exist and, if so, how it was leaked."

The RUC, meanwhile, said that dissident loyalists may have been behind a pipe-bomb attack on the home of a Catholic family in Dungannon.

Co Tyrone. A woman and four children were asleep in the house when the device was thrown in.

It did not explode and no one was injured. This was the latest in a series of sporadic incidents, spread over various areas of Northern Ireland, in which Catholic homes have been attacked.

Describing the killing of Mr Collins, RUC chief inspector Eddie Graham said: "He sustained quite serious head injuries with a number of stab wounds to his upper body. It's more akin to a crime carried out by primitive cave-men than it is of a country entering the 21st century."

Tube staff vote to strike

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

MILLIONS OF London commuters face severe disruption on the Underground network after staff voted overwhelmingly for strikes that could last up to three days.

Leaders of the RMT rail union have given management until next Thursday to address their concerns about a plan for partial privatisation of the system drawn up by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott.

Ironically, Mr Prescott is not only considered to be a union sympathiser, but is a leading member of the RMT.

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the union, said that his members would be considering during the next week whether to stage walkouts over one, two or three days. London Underground is expected to provide a skeleton service.

Asked why his members were prepared to inflict serious inconvenience on commuters, Mr Knapp said he believed his members enjoyed considerable support. "The public shares the same frustration with the effects of privatisation as our members. They can see the validity of our argument."

The RMT leader said his members were deeply concerned about their job security because of a scheme to "contract out" parts of the network's infrastructure.

Mr Knapp estimates that about 4,000 employees will find themselves switched to new companies under the plan. The union is seeking confirmation that no member will be transferred to the new businesses without consent. Mr Knapp said management had written to all employees saying if they did not transfer they would be deemed to have resigned.

A management spokesman said the union had chosen to ignore repeated assurance from Mr Prescott about their jobs. The RMT had chosen the "path of confrontation", he said.

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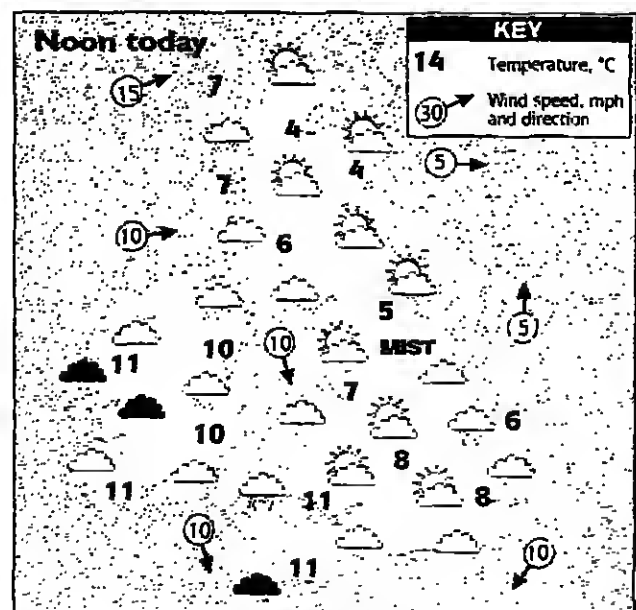
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BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST

General situation: Central and eastern Scotland will start bright but cold before turning cloudier this afternoon. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will be dull with drizzle. After a cold and misty start, northern England will stay mainly dry with a few sunny spells developing. Wales and south-west England will have a lot of cloud with the odd sunny break, but East Anglia will have more cloud and spots of drizzle.

Cost S & SE England, London, Midlands: Any remnants of overnight rain will soon clear away to leave just a few sunny spells and a lot of cloud. A light and variable wind. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F).

E Anglia, E England: Brief brighter spells but generally cloudy with drizzle, most likely towards the coast. A light and variable wind. Max temp 6-7C (43-45F).

Channel Is, SW England, Wales: Some bright spells are likely in the east but it will be mostly cloudy with some drizzle on coasts and hills. A light north-westerly wind. Max temp 5-12C (41-54F).

Cost N England, NW & NE England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Some early mist and low cloud, but it will be predominantly dry with a few sunny intervals. A light north-westerly wind. Max temp 5-12C (41-54F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Isles: A cold but bright start then turning cloudy with the threat of some drizzle. A light west to south-westerly wind. Max temp 5-7C (41-45F).

SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Cloudy with light rain or drizzle, drier but still cloudy this afternoon. A light westerly wind. Max temp 6-9C (43-48F).

LIGHTING UP

Belfast	4.55pm to 8.17am
Birmingham	4.47pm to 7.53am
Bristol	4.54pm to 7.52am
Glasgow	4.43pm to 8.16am
London	4.44pm to 7.43am
Manchester	4.45pm to 7.58am
Newcastle	4.36pm to 8.01am

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Abermouth	4.54	11.8	5.31	12.1
Cork	3.22	4.1	3.51	4.1
Doverport	3.29	5.0	4.06	4.9
Dover	4.35	6.1	4.30	6.2
Dun Laoghaire	9.41	4.1	10.04	4.1
Plymouth	3.00	4.8	3.37	4.7
Greenwich	10.10	3.2	11.08	3.2
Hartlepool	9.39	3.7	10.15	3.7
Holyhead	8.26	5.2	8.51	5.3
Portsmouth	4.08	6.1	4.30	6.2
Widford	4.08	6.2	4.30	6.3
Kings Lynn	4.09	5.3	4.31	5.1
Leith	12.14	5.1	12.46	5.2
Liverpool	3.14	8.6	3.42	8.9
Widford Haven	4.08	6.2	4.30	6.3
Newquay	3.04	6.2	3.32	6.4
Portland	4.15	1.7	4.57	1.7
Portsmouth	4.20	4.5	9.54	4.6
Purcell	6.10	4.3	6.37	4.4
Scarborough	1.51	5.3	2.23	5.3
Wick	9.21	3.4	9.50	3.4

AIR QUALITY

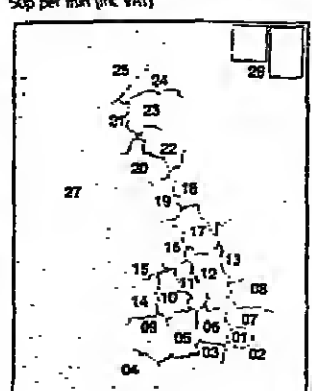
	NO _x	SO ₂
London	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Moderate	Good
N England	Moderate	Good
Scotland	Moderate	Good
Ireland	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises:	07.44
Sets:	16.44
Moon rises:	16.37
Moon sets:	05.45
Full moon:	January 31st

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts call 0800 5009 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).



YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

Warmest: Farnborough 12C (54F)
Coldest (day): Lao 4C (39F)
Wettest: Cape Cury 1.85 in.
Sunniest: Pontefract 5.8 hrs
For 24hrs to 2pm Thursday

	Sun	Rain	Max
	hrs	in	°C
Aberdeen	1.1	0.11	4
Aberystwyth	0.7	0.01	9
Aldershot	0.1	0.15	3
Belfast	0.2	0.06	9
Birmingham	1.4	0.03	6
Bournemouth	6.0	0.01	9
Bristol	4.3	0.01	9
Buxton	0.3	0.12	4
Cardiff	3.1	0.01	9
Clacton	0.2	0.25	9
Cromer	3.6	0.42	5
Edinburgh	0.1	0.02	5
Exmouth	4.2	0.0	9
Falkirk	1.6	0.01	9
Folkestone	5.1	0.10	8
Glasgow	0.2	0.04	7
Hastings	4.8	0.08	8
Hove	4.2	0.09	8
Isle of Man	0.1	0.02	9
Isle of Wight	0.1	0.08	8
Jersey	3.8	0.37	10
Leamington	4.7	0.08	8
Leeds	1.1	0.07	6
Lewisham	6.7	0.02	4
Liverpool	5.8	0.16	12
London	4.3	0	8
Lowestoft	3.4	0.10	5
Manchester	0.2	0.04	7
Margate	4.8	0.11	7
Morcambe	0.0	0.06	7
Newcastle	1.6	0.1	6
Newquay	0.5	0.02	10
Norwich	3.9	0.11	5
Oxford	4.0	0	8
Roos-on-Wyre	3.3	0	8
Salford	2.3	0.19	4
Scarborough	0.8	0.14	8
Shefferson	0.3	0.08	8
Southport	0.1	0.03	8
Stranraer	0.1	0.18	7
Torquay	3.7	0	9
Torquay	1.1	0.01	10
Torquay	3.4	0	10
Weymouth	5.3	0.05	9

RAIN OR SHINE

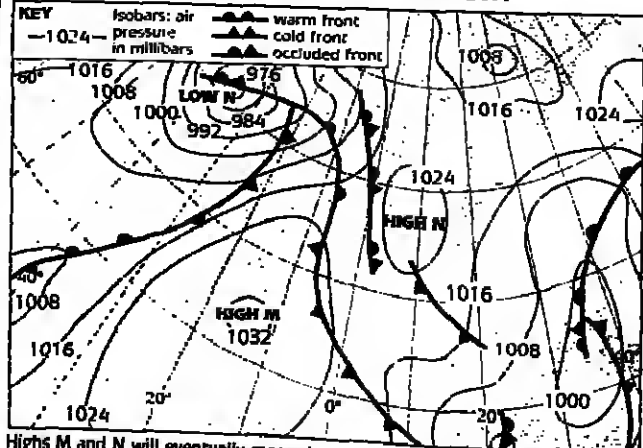
NORWEGIANS endured their coldest day this century yesterday when temperatures plunged to minus 51C (minus 59F). The temperature was so low it was too cold for standard mercury thermometers, which freeze at minus 39C (minus 38F), and had to be measured with alcohol-based thermometers. The cold spell is such that warm water tossed into the air outside will freeze before it hits the ground.

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY



THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY



THE WORLD YESTERDAY

THE WORLD YESTERDAY									
Aloofly, lazily, dreamily, thoughtfully, happily, merrily, musingly, nervously, shyly, sleepily, sweetly, tenderly, warmly, whimsically, wickedly									

The spotty schoolboy and single mother taking the mantle from Roald Dahl



BEWITCHING LINK TO CHILDREN'S CLASSICS

HARRY POTTER is far from the first young hero of a favourite children's book to have enjoyed a more exotic education than the National Curriculum allows. The intrepid sorcerer's apprentice at Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry - with his two mega-selling novels, thriving adult fan club and seven-figure Warners movie deal - has carried into the 1990s a long tradition in British children's writing of spellbinding yarns.

Decade after decade, teachers try to make new readers love the sort of gritty streetwise writing that will strengthen their grip on the world. And, decade after decade, children's tastes prove the imagination grasps reality in a more mysterious way. In strongly plotted, vividly imagined children's literature, the concept of "escapism" means little.

It is true the Harry Potter craze connects with the bewitching classics of the immediate pre- and postwar years more closely than with the more recent grimmer children's fare. Any Harry fan who needs another fix of comic sorcery should seek out T.H. White's sparklingly witty, sly Arthurian fantasia from 1938, *The Sword in the Stone*. Indeed, White's wizard Merlin has graduated from "a college for Witches and Warlocks under the sea". The fizz and fun of the lessons he gives to his young pupils Kay and Wart mean that the book has dated less than almost any "adult" novel of its year.

Months earlier, J.R.R. Tolkien had published *The Hobbit*: his Gandalf is the charismatic wizard responsible, then as now, "for so many quiet lads and lassies going off into the Blue for mad adventures". Not long before that, in 1934, P.L. Travers's *Mary Poppins* had placed her own benign hex on the sedate Banks household, sliding up the bannisters and serving tea on the ceiling.

Harder to find now is the powerful blend of realism and magic that the former Poet Laureate John Masefield brought to his novels for children, *The Midnight Folk* and *The Box of Delights*. At the start of the century, Edith Nesbit had also planted plausible modern children in a colourful terrain of fantasy with *Five Children and It* and *The Phoenix and the Carpet*.

The very real Alice Liddell, Lewis Carroll's friend and muse, stands at the source of this rich stream of works that send grubbily authentic kids on fabulous but enriching missions. Look at the Potter



The latest Harry Potter

A SINGLE mother of 34 and a bespectacled orphan schoolboy may not be the most promising combination, but together they have become the publishing sensation of the past two years.

The latest chapter in the remarkable story of Joanna Rowling's beguiling literary creation began yesterday with the paperback publication of the second book in her Harry Potter series, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

Potter is the schoolboy wizard whose enthusiastic adoption by children and grown-ups in their hundreds of thousands has had critics hailing Ms Rowling as the new Roald Dahl.

Platform One at King's Cross Station briefly becomes the mythical Platform 9 and three-quarters, the place from which young Harry departs for school at the beginning of each new term and which functions like the wardrobe in C.S. Lewis's *Narnia* chronicles.

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, the first in what will eventually develop into a seven-part series, introduced the eponymous hero to a generation of computer games junkies previously thought to have been lost to the charms of print. The results have been extraordinary. Sales of the two books are now nudging half-a-million, while the hardback version of *Chamber of Secrets* spent its first month on the shelf as the bestseller across all books.

Ms Rowling has garnered an armful of awards, including the Smarties Book Prize (the child's equivalent of the Booker) in consecutive years and a place on the 1998 Whitbread shortlist. Hollywood lost its validation last autumn when Warner Brothers secured the film rights to both books for a seven-figure sum.

Master Potter is an orphan forced to live under the stairs by cruel relatives until he learns on his 11th birthday that he is, in fact, the son of famous wizards, whereupon he is whisked off to Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. There he takes lessons in potions, herb lore and Quidditch, a kind of football played on broomsticks. Oh yes, and he saves the school and the world from the fallen angel Lord Voldemort, a former head boy of Hogwart's, who chooses to turn his magic against the in-

BY RHYNS WILLIAMS

stitution. In other words, a rip-roaring yarn of good versus evil that legitimately conjures up the New Testament, only with characters that recall Roald Dahl.

The names of Dahl and C.S. Lewis are frequently mentioned alongside Ms Rowling's, a comparison at which she balks. "C.S. Lewis is quite simply a genius and I'm not a genius," she said. "And while I think Dahl is a master at what he did, I do think my books are more moral than his. He also wrote very overblown comic characters, whereas I think mine are more three-dimensional."

Either way, critics have universally lauded Ms Rowling's as she carries readers into a world of invention where Harry flies a car into a tree in flagrant breach of rules on the misuse of Muggle (as normal people are known) artefacts. In the second book Harry unravels the secrets of giant spiders, schoolmates turned to stone and an unpleasant creature that has taken to lurking in the school plumbing.

Potter was drawn with spectacles because, Ms Rowling said, she had worn thick glasses as a child and was frustrated that "species" were swots but never heroes.

Nominally pitched at 9 to 12-year-olds, Harry's appeal has been broader. Parents who were complaining about their children's refusal to turn off the light until they had finished one more chapter became the next Potter converts. The publishers

Joanna Rowling who wrote in a café to escape her cold flat and (above left) the character, Harry Potter

Bloomsbury took the unusual step of bringing out an adult version of the first book last September. It was wrapped in a design-conscious cover featuring a black and white photograph of a steam train with the title flashed in citrus orange letter. The idea was to spare adult readers on public transport the chore of hiding the children's version behind their morning paper.

If Harry's adventures make for compelling reading, then Ms Rowling's story is also worth a chapter or two. After working for Amnesty International, she went to Portugal to teach English. There she married a journalist, but within weeks of the birth of a daughter, Jessica, they had separated.

Divorced, penniless and now a single mother, she returned to Edinburgh, where her sister lived. Much of the first novel was written in Nicolsoo's, a cafe in the city where she would escape her cold and miserable flat. While Jessica slept in her pram, Ms Rowling stretched out her coffee and scribbled furiously away in long hand.

The manuscript was dispatched to Penguin, who turned it down, and then HarperCollins, where it gathered dust for a year. Finally she enlisted the help of a literary agent and, within a day of sending the book, Bloomsbury gratefully snaffled it up. The rest could well be literary and cinematic history.

YOUNG BESTSELLERS

Past bestselling books...

- Watership Down*, by Richard Adams (1972)
- The Magic Finger*, by Roald Dahl (1974)
- Thunder and Lightning*, by Alan Mark (1976)
- Each Peach, Pear, Plum*, by Alan and Janet Ahlberg (1978)
- Matilda*, by Roald Dahl (1980)
- The BFG*, by Roald Dahl (1982)
- The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13-3/4*, by Sue Townsend (1984)
- Going Solo*, by Roald Dahl (1986)
- The Witches*, by Roald Dahl (1988)
- Esio Trot*, by Roald Dahl (1990)
- Truckers*, by Terry Pratchett (1992)
- Flour Bables*, by Anne Fine (1994)
- Goose Bumps*, by R.L. Stine (1996)
- Children's Book of Books* (1998)

Source: Bookwatch Ltd

Navy finds the sunken treasure of Charles I

MARINE ARCHAEOLOGISTS will today announce the discovery of what they believe to be the treasure-laden wreck of Charles I's baggage ferry, the *Blessing of Burntisland*.

Lost in a storm crossing the Firth of Forth in 1633, the ship was loaded with the king's priceless possessions.

The archaeologists believe it could be the most important find for them since the discovery of the Tudor warship the *Mary Rose*.

The *Blessing* foundered shortly after leaving Burntisland, bound for Leith. Twenty carts loaded with the King's personal possessions from his hunting palace at Falkland were aboard.

The wooden ferry, known to treasure hunters as "Britain's Tintankhamun", was also carrying a 280-piece silver dinner

service commissioned by King Henry VIII and other ornate tapestries, silks and trappings for Charles's coronation tour of Scotland.

The king watched helplessly from his flagship, the *Dreadnought*, as a large slice of royal Stuart treasure vanished under the waves and more than 30 of his entourage perished. There were only two survivors.

The distressed monarch cut short his tour and returned to London where 16 years later he lost more than his silverware. Details of the wreck, 120ft down and one mile off-shore, are to be disclosed at Kinghorn, Fife - one day before the 350th anniversary of the execution of the King in London.

Navy experts and marine

archaeologists are not expected to be able to say it definitely is the ship.

But according to defence sources the wreck, buried under several feet of silt, matches the size and shape of the barge and there is "growing optimism" it is the *Blessing of Burntisland*.

The ship could contain silver used by the King at his coronation, and also a "time capsule" with masses of preserved artefacts from the period.

The search began in 1997 and the site was finally located by HMS *Roebuck*, a Royal Navy hydrographic survey ship. It was the outcome of a joint effort between the Royal Navy and the charitable Burntisland Heritage Trust.

Computer-produced images of the wreck site led to detailed investigation by divers in De-

cember, and the task of verifying whether it is the historic wreck is still under way.

Another royal ferry sank in the same waters 44 years earlier, carrying the dowry of Ann of Denmark for her wedding to King James VI of Scotland, Charles's father.

With either vessel of great significance, Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland, has imposed a Protection of Wrecks Order on the site.

It is expected that final confirmation that it is the *Blessing* will come in the summer then delicate work on raising the wreck will begin.

The wreck is said to lie at the very point fixed last May by the successful English map dowsers Jim Longton.

He sailed the route of the ill-fated vessel with his metal divining rod and pendulum.

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4/HOME NEWS

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 29 January 1999

Lawrence lawyers 'took wrong route'



THE QC: MICHAEL MANSFIELD

Michael Mansfield, a vegetarian who enjoys cycling, takes to the upstairs room of his London home whenever he feels frustrated to bang a battered old drum kit. One of the country's best-known lawyers, his clients have included the Angry Brigade, the Birmingham Six, the Bridgewater Three, Arthur Scargill and Patrick Nicholas, who served 23 years for a murder that never happened.

The son of Conservative-voting parents, his interest in the law started when his mother defended herself when she was wrongly fined £10 for illegal parking. After studying philosophy and history at Keele University, Mansfield, 57, taught at a polytechnic and studied for his Bar exams by a correspondence course. He failed land law three times before passing and became a QC in 1989.

IT WAS, without a doubt, one of the cruellest moments in the Lawrence family's long campaign for justice.

Three men, who they believed to be the killers of their son Stephen, walked out of the dock at the Old Bailey, unpunished and now unpunishable. Doreen Lawrence collapsed in tears. Neville Lawrence froze, unable to believe his eyes.

The couple had pinned their hopes on the trial at the Old Bailey in April 1996. Two years earlier, with the backing of their legal team, solicitor Imran Khan and eminent QC Michael Mansfield, they launched a private prosecution of the men widely regarded as the prime murder suspects.

It was the only route that remained open, they believed, after the Crown Prosecution Service discontinued its case. Not everyone agreed. Howard Youngerwood, the senior CPS lawyer who took the decision to drop the charges, was horrified.

He told Mr Khan that he was bound to fail because of the unreliability of the identification evidence of Duwayne Brooks, Stephen's friend, and begged him not to proceed.

It would have been far better, said Mr Youngerwood, to wait for new evidence to emerge so that the CPS prosecution could be reactivated. He told the public inquiry that when he discovered that the Lawrences planned to ignore his advice, "I was so desperate, I collapsed in the street".

Others observers questioned whether Mr Mansfield

BY KATHY MARKS

and Mr Khan - celebrated criminal defence lawyers, but with no experience of conducting a prosecution - had the necessary expertise to handle the case.

But the Metropolitan Police, who had reopened the murder investigation under an energetic detective superintendent,



Stephen Lawrence: His killers are still free

Bill Mellish, was happy to co-operate.

They gave the family a surveillance video that showed the suspects brandishing knives and fantasising about killing black people.

The Lawrences - who raised £45,000 to finance the prosecution - received a further morale boost when Ian Johnston, the Metropolitan Police's Assistant Commissioner, attended the committal proceedings at Bel-

marsh Magistrates Court as a public display of support.

At Belmarsh, charges against two of the suspects - Jamie Acourt and David Norris, both 18, were dropped because of insufficient evidence. But Dobson, 18, Neil Acourt, 20, and Luke Knight, 18 - were sent for trial.

The case hinged on Mr Brooks, who had picked out the three defendants at identification parades. In legal argument, though, doubts were cast on his evidence, and the trial judge, Mr Justice Curtis, said Mr Brooks did not know whether he was "on his head or his heels".

With his evidence ruled inadmissible, Mr Mansfield had no option but to abandon the case, and the three were formally acquitted on the direction of the judge, who praised the Lawrences' "statesmanlike" conduct.

The video - which showed Neil Acourt waving a knife said to be similar to the one used to kill Stephen - was never shown to the jury. The private prosecution was a desperate measure by a family who had been let down by police and the prosecuting authorities.

But tragically, since it is a principle of English law that people cannot be tried twice for the same offence, its effect was to place the three men beyond the reach of justice. The case against the other two was so seriously undermined that the Lawrences will now probably never be granted their deepest wish: to see their son's murderers behind bars.



THE SOLICITOR: IMRAN KHAN

Imran Khan not a solicitor new to controversy. After representing two Asian men accused of murdering the white schoolboy Richard Everitt, he received death threats. He was also told by police he should not attend a demonstration in north London being held for the men, who had been convicted of murder and violent disorder. "I can appreciate that people might be angry and frustrated, particular-

ly those who have lost someone, but making threats to my life goes beyond reasonable behaviour," he said. He was at the demonstration. Slim and charming, he often represents high-profile race-related cases. Within days of Stephen Lawrence's murder, he was representing his parents, Doreen and Neville. With Michael Mansfield, he has worked beside them since.

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Yard plans SOS units after custody deaths

SCOTLAND YARD plans to bring in rapid response medical units after growing concern about the number of "vulnerable" people dying after they have been restrained and held in police custody.

The move is prompted by the death earlier this month of Roger Sylvester, a mentally ill man who collapsed after being restrained by eight police officers. The black 30-year-old died a week after collapsing on a hospital floor in north London. He was seized by police after a report that he was naked and causing a disturbance in Tottenham, north London. He was detained and taken naked to hospital.

Metropolitan Police chiefs are particularly worried about a rise in the number of violent incidents involving people with drug and mental health problems. The Met is considering plans to set up several specialist mobile emergency units that

BY JASON BENNETT
Crime Correspondent

can be sent to the scene of an incident. The units are likely to include a police paramedic or health worker. Scotland Yard also wants to video more of the controversial cases so that the film can be used as evidence in inquests and civil claims.

The proposals were disclosed yesterday by Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, who said that a police group headed by Denis O'Connor, Assistant Commissioner, was set up earlier this week after the death of Mr Sylvester. The use of excessive and inappropriate restraint has been criticised at a number of cases.

An inquest jury decided on Wednesday that businessman Nathan Delahunty, who had 52 injuries on his body, died partly as a result of being restrained by police in south-west London

in July last year. It was disclosed yesterday that the Met's internal complaints unit is to examine the case to see whether any charges should be brought against the officers involved. Sir Paul said any rapid response team - which would be the first of its kind in the world - could help to deal with the "hundreds" of 999 calls the Met received every year that related to people with behavioural problems.

He said he was particularly concerned about cases involving cocaine users who have died after a violent physical reaction to being restrained by the police. He said: "We need to have a long, hard look at the way we deal with vulnerable people on the streets."

"It's becoming harder and harder for police officers to know how to deal with these people," Sir Paul added. "We have become the front line for care in the community."

MoD settles Wren sex case

A FORMER WREN who won a sexual harassment case against a Royal Navy officer nicknamed "Commander Underpants" has settled her case against the MoD, it emerged yesterday.

Nicola Rushton, 20, was expected to attend a further hearing in Exeter, Devon, today for the level of compensation to be decided. But the tribunal office said the case had been settled. No further details were available.

Miss Rushton, from Plymouth, Devon, claimed she was driven out of the Navy by the behaviour of Lieutenant Commander David Bellingham aboard HMS Coventry.

The 6ft 4ins officer - who wore "Jingle Bells" musical underpants - chased her round the quarter deck wearing a Santa Claus hat, she claimed, and subjected her to a number of incidents of sexual harassment.

Lt Cdr Bellingham, 32, now serving with HMS Monmouth, was fined £2,000, severely reprimanded and stripped of his seniority by a court martial.

Miss Rushton, now working as a car valet, said she had regained some of the four stone she lost as a result of her ordeal. She had signed on for 22 years but was dismissed after 20 months as being "temperamentally unsuitable".

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This fox was reared for a Yorkshire hunt to one end ... to be killed for pleasure

From "The Independent", 26 June, 1998

Hunt 'is luring foxes for the kill'

ONE of the country's leading foxhunts, accused last year of trapping fox cubs for hunting, faces a new investigation after allegations that an artificial earth was found on its land.

Less than eight months ago the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals rescued a pair of three-month-old cubs from an underground cage on the Sinnington Hunt's land in North Yorkshire.

The RSPCA dropped the prosecution of the Sinnington last month because, it said it did not have enough evidence. The hunt masters denied they knew the cubs had been trapped.

Now the RSPCA is carrying out another inquiry after photographs and video film were produced, allegedly showing evidence of an artificial earth in the same area.

BY KIM SENGUPTA

Artificial earths are not illegal. But the rules of the Masters of Fox Hounds Association states: "Foxhunting as a sport is the hunting of the fox in his wild and natural state with a pack of hounds. Nothing must be done which, in any way, compromises this rule."

Animal rights campaigners say trapping foxes to be let loose for hounds undermines the argument of blood sport supporters that hunting is an essential form of pest control.

The photographs of an earth were first said to have been taken in 1997. Video footage apparently shot earlier this month is said to show the earth was still there.

The League Against Cruel Sports, whose undercover investigators discovered the captive fox cubs, are demanding closure of the Sinnington Hunt. They intend to organise a demonstration in the area at the weekend. Steve Rackett, one of the campaigners, said: "It is clear this hunt is encouraging fox cubs. The Sinnington has been involved in other trouble, and it really is time for it to be closed down."

On Boxing Day last year, hounds from the hunt killed a cat in a garden in Kirkby-



The Sinnington Hunt rides out from Muscoates Whin: they were cleared of keeping fox cubs to be reared for the chase

moorside. Owner Joan Salmon and her children failed to save her pet. She accused the hunt of being arrogant and failing to apologise.

A month earlier, Ryedale District Council ordered the hunt to remove an incinerator, used for animal carcasses, which it said had been causing air pollution.

Posters have begun to appear in villages in the area, put up, it is said, by local farmers, about the hunt. One shows a cat

lying on its back with legs up in the air and the caption "Latest from Sinnington pantomime productions, puss in bits".

John Shaw, one of the joint masters of the Sinnington, referred inquiries to the Countryside Alliance. John Haigh, for the Alliance, said: "We do not oppose an RSPCA inquiry, but we would like to point out that any photographs or video shots must have been gathered by trespassing on private property and they may not be genuine."

"Artificial earths aren't there to bring in foxes but just to encourage them to stay in the area. The reason we have the healthiest fox population in Europe in this country is because of hunting."

As far as the discovery of the fox cubs is concerned, we are, of course, totally opposed to keeping foxes in cages, but there was an investigation into the matter by the Masters of Fox Hounds Association, and the hunt was cleared."

Last night James Holt, the chairman of the Sinnington Hunt said: "As far as I know, at this moment there is no second artificial earth at Muscoates Whin where they say it was found. And anyway, even if there was I don't know what the fuss is about."

Mr Holt's ex-wife, Annabel Holt, a former huntswoman, is now a campaigner against blood sports and intends to set up a register of landowners opposed to hunting.

Justice Sless

Prayer book for pets is launched

BY CLARE GARNER

THE ONLY blessing bestowed on most animals is: "For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful." But next month a book of services especially for animals, including a burial service, healing liturgy, and Eucharistic prayers, is to be published.

The 14 liturgies have been compiled by the Rev Professor Andrew Linzey, a fellow of Mansfield College, Oxford, where he holds the world's first post in Christian Theology and Animal Welfare. His latest book, *Animal Rites*, is dedicated to "Barney, still wagging his tail in heaven".

Many churches now have animal-blessing services, particularly around St Francis's Day on 4 October, but there is no authorised liturgy for animals. Dr Linzey hopes the Church will take up his suggestions.

"Imagine you are a parish priest and a parishioner comes to you and says their much-loved companion - their pet - has died," he said. "I don't think it's a feasible Christian response to say: 'Put it out with the garbage without a prayer.'"

Dr Linzey has written a rite for healing, which can include the laying on of hands and the use of holy oil with prayer, a liturgy for a vigil for animals suffering exploitation from human beings, and litany for the protection of such animals.

MEPs want ban on battery hens within 10 years

EUROPEAN MEPs yesterday demanded the abolition of all cages for battery hens by 2009 in a move which increased the political pressure on European leaders to introduce new animal welfare measures.

By a two thirds majority, MEPs called for a total ban on the cages, going well beyond the more limited measures proposed by the European Commission to increase their minimum size.

Although the vote is not

BY STEPHEN CASTLE

in Brussels

hindering it marks a significant escalation of the Europe-wide campaign to improve the plight of factory-farmed animals.

Campaigners will now concentrate their efforts on the Council of Agriculture Ministers, which has the power to introduce a ban throughout the 15 EU nations.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, is committed to press-

ing for the phasing out of cages for battery hens but argues that the UK cannot afford to act unilaterally.

Philip Lyndbery, Campaigns Director for Compassion in World Farming, said it was "a tremendous day for animal welfare", adding: "The Council of Ministers will take the final decision but they will find it very hard to ignore this ringing endorsement from the European Parliament for the ban on battery hen cages."

He dismissed the argument that the move would result in a big price hike, adding that the differential in production costs between battery and free-range eggs is about 9p a box.

Yesterday's vote is a complication for the European Commission, which had called for an increase in the size of battery hen cages from a 450 square centimetre minimum floor area to 800 square centimetres by 2009. One of its arguments is that cages provide

sanctuary for some vulnerable hens from attack by others.

A spokesman for the Commission said yesterday that reforms must be accompanied by global rules on standards to stop cheap imports flooding the market. He added: "In the absence of them we would be making our producers uncompetitive at great social cost to rural Europe."

In October 1996 the independent Scientific Veterinary Committee gave valuable ammunition to campaigners by pointing to the defects of the battery cage system, in particular the small available area and lack of stimulus. It also noted the negative elements of alternatives, including the risk of feather pecking and cannibalism.

MEPs agreed with the Commission that a 10-year phase-in period for changes is necessary to allow farmers to adapt, in view of the fact that 93 per cent of eggs consumed in the EU are battery farmed. However they

snubbed the Commission's proposal by voting for a complete ban by the 2009 deadline.

Mark Watkin, Labour MEP for Kent East and author of the successful amendment calling for a ban, said: "It is a myth that consumers will not buy free-range eggs."

"The fact is that 89 per cent of the British public believe keeping hens in small cages is cruel and almost half now buy barn or free-range eggs. Changing from battery to free-range

eggs would cost the average consumer less than £2 a year," Robert Shurdy, Conservative MEP for Cambridgeshire, warned that abolition of cages must be accompanied by legal moves to block cheap imports. "Consumers will decide which eggs to buy on price as long as they are safe," he said. "It is not realistic to expect them to pay 25 per cent more for eggs that are free-range. We must make sure EU farmers do not suffer as a result of cheap imports."

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6/HOME NEWS

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 29 January 1999

Cabinet vows to scrap Tory labour laws

THE GOVERNMENT registered its determination to scrap years of Thatcherite labour laws yesterday, granting unions legislation on compulsory recognition and new rights to millions of employees.

Union leaders clashed over the detailed provisions of the Employment Relations ("Fairness at Work") Bill, but ministers seem to have largely resisted employer attempts to water down the proposals.

The Government was keen to emphasise the "family-friendly" elements of the proposed law, which will include maternity leave of 18 weeks for all employees, benefiting 85,000 women. Maternity leave of 40 weeks will be enjoyed after one year's employment, rather than two years, covering 50,000 more mothers.

Under pressure from employers, ministers withdrew plans to remove any compensation limit for unfair dismissal. Instead, it will increase from £12,000 to £50,000. If a company refuses to reinstate a sacked worker it rises to £64,700.

But employer groups said yesterday the Bill was unnecessary and unwelcome. Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, said: "The whole notion of compulsory trade union recognition is still unacceptable to us." Many of the family-friendly measures would be a burden on industry, particularly small companies, she added.

The Department of Trade and Industry has made few major concessions on union recognition to the Confederation of British Industry and New Labour hawks in the Downing Street Policy Unit.

Trade unionists believe the membership and rules of en-

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

NEW RIGHTS AT WORK

■ Extension of maternity leave to 18 weeks, in line with maternity pay

■ 40 weeks' maternity leave after one year's employment, instead of two

■ Three months' parental leave, including adoptive parents

■ Right to return to job, or "suitable alternative"

■ Time off for domestic emergencies

■ Compensation of up to £64,700 for unfair dismissal

■ Rights to compulsory union recognition where there are more than 20 employees if they want it

■ Shield against prejudice for union membership, or non-membership

■ A ban on "blacklisting" of trade unionists

■ Right to be represented in disciplinary and serious grievance hearings

■ Protection against unfair sacking for those involved

agement of the Central Arbitration Committee, which will police the law, will have a substantial impact, Stephen Byers, Secretary of State at the DTI, said the proposals constituted "fairness not favours. I don't see the Bill acting as a recruiting agent for the unions," he said. "It is no job of a Labour government to be the Fifth Cavalry, rushing over the hill to save unions from declining membership."

Under the proposals, unions

will win compulsory recognition if they win a majority in a ballot representing at least 40 per cent of the relevant workforce. Unions with 50 per cent membership will normally be awarded automatic bargaining rights.

The provisions are unlikely to lead to wholesale unionisation - less than a quarter of workers are union members - but they could have a particular impact in some industries such as the service sector and newspapers. Unions have a "hit list" of big companies where they believe they can win a negotiating agreement.

Even where unions are not recognised, employees will have the right to be accompanied and represented by a union official in disciplinary and serious grievance hearings where legal rights are at issue. Until now, in some workplaces their representatives have been discouraged, or even banned.

Mr Byers said the Bill would fulfil the Government's manifesto commitments to provide for the first time all employees with "decent minimum standards", and the proposals would usher in a new era of co-operation between workers and employers.

Ian McCartney, Minister of State at the DTI, who was responsible for most of the detailed work of the Bill, said it would provide "partnership" in the workplace. "We are on the threshold of a renaissance in employment relations," he said.

John Edmonds, leader of the GMB general union, welcomed the Bill as the "first step" towards fairness at work.

But he also wants vocational training to be part of the bargaining agenda where unions are recognised.



Anna Tribe, great-great-great granddaughter of Horatio Nelson, comes face to face with a model of the great sea hero who vanquished the French at the battles of the Nile and Trafalgar, at the Royal Navy Museum in Portsmouth

Russell Sach

Government adverts to cost £80m

THE GOVERNMENT has increased its spending on advertising by over one-third this year and is now planning to start sponsoring or making television programmes to put across its message.

The Central Office of Information, the department that co-ordinates government advertising, confirmed yesterday that it is likely to spend £80m in the year to March, compared with £59m last year.

More than £5m has been spent on promoting the "New Deal" on jobs, and £1.5m on warning businesses to get

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

ready for the single European currency. A further £22m is being spent on promoting the working family tax credit, the campaign to promote awareness of pensions mis-selling, a government jobline and a child literacy campaign. An extra £50m is to be spent over the next three years to encourage people to give up smoking.

A spokesman for the COI said yesterday that the Government's advertising expenditure fluctuates depending on

the stage in the parliamentary cycle. "It's not like the Government is a factory which produces a steady stream of products to be promoted. There is ongoing work, like the 'Kill Your Speed' campaign, but then there are things that rely on the Government's programme."

It was also revealed yesterday that the Government is looking for a specialist sponsorship agency to allow it to sponsor radio and television programmes, and even fund programmes that promote its campaigns. Samantha Mercer, head of sponsorship at the COI,

told *Marketing Week* magazine: "We are looking at sponsorship propositions for government departments. It could involve making a programme about the life of a young recruit in the Army."

The Government is likely to use sponsorship to support non-contentious issues such as the campaign against drink-driving and the promotion of organ donation for transplant surgery.

The current administration has been described as the most "advertising literate" government ever to hold office. Min-

isters are increasingly demanding to have a say on the appointment of advertising agencies as well as approval of campaigns. Industry experts attribute the Government's interest to the Labour Party's conversion to advertising during its long period in opposition and the fact that many ministers mix socially with people from the world of advertising.

The 1998-99 budget for advertising is the Government's biggest for seven years. The last patch of very high spending coincided with the Conservatives' privatisation programme.

3 — GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS — WINNER BEST PICTURE COMEDY OR MUSICAL

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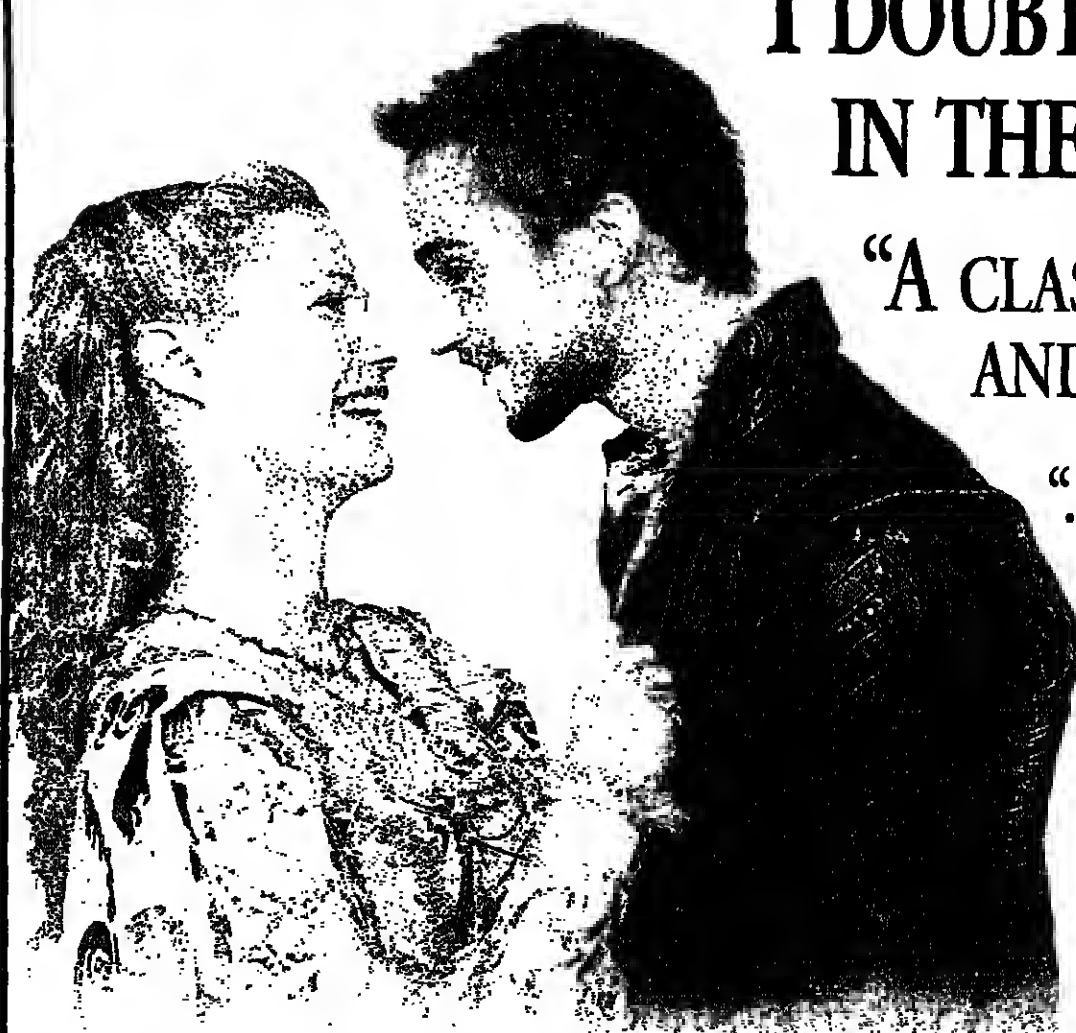
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SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

15



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/MIRAMAX FILMS/BEVERLY HILLS COMPANY PRESENT A FILM BY JOHN MAUDEN GWYNETH PALTROW JOSEPH FIENNES GEOFFREY RUSH COLIN FIRTH BEN AFFLECK AND JUDI DENCH "SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE" SIMON CALLOW JIM CARTER MARTIN CLUNES ANTONY SHER IMELDA STAUNTON TOM WILKINSON MARK WILLIAMS COSTUME DESIGNER MICHELLE GUNSH MUSIC BY STEPHEN WARBICK EDITOR SANDY POWELL EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DAVID GAMBLE PRODUCED BY MARTIN CHILDS PRODUCED BY RICHARD GREATHX, D.S.C. PRODUCED BY BOB WEINSTEIN JULIE GOLDBSTEIN PRODUCED BY DAVID PARETTI DUNNA GRILOTTI HARVEY WEINSTEIN EDWARD ZWICK MARGA NORMAN

At Cinemas Across The Country From Today

Access is denied to Britons in Yemen

THE YEMENI authorities were back-tracking yesterday on a promised medical examination of five Britons and an Algerian, on trial in Aden for allegedly planning a bombing campaign.

In court, earlier in the week, the accused men shouted from the dock that they had been systematically tortured by methods that included electric shocks, beatings on the feet, suspension, sexual abuse and sleep deprivation.

Dr Saddam Alam, a GP from Manchester, who specialises in treating the after-effects of torture, expected to be allowed into Aden central prison after the judge in charge of the case said that a foreign medical specialist could be present while a Yemeni doctor examined the men. But Dr Alam said yesterday: "It does not look good. Everything the judge promised has been retracted."

At first, the prosecutor had seemed willing to let him see the group, arrested in Aden on 24 December, but later changed his mind. Dr Alam added: "If they have nothing to hide why are they doing this?"

Dr Alam said that Sirrad Ahmed, 21, and Mohsin Ghailan, 18, both students, appeared to have been singled out for especially harsh treatment. They told family members of other prisoners who visited them after the first day of their trial, that they had both been "taped naked and sexually abused. They said their thumbs were pressed to a metal bar for 20 seconds at a time" and they were given electric shocks.

The investigators may have focused on the two because Mr

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Aden

Ghailan is the stepson of Abu Hamza al Masri - the militant Islamic sheikh from Finsbury Park, north London - and Mr Ahmed is believed by the Yemeni authorities to belong to Mr Masri's group, the Supporters of the Sharia Islamic Law. During the trial Mr Ahmed said: "They have been treating us like animals."

The worst torture, according to the men's account, appears to have occurred in the first days after the men were arrested. They were forced to stand against a wall for five days and beaten if they fell asleep or moved. Malek Nasser Harhara, a student in computer studies from Birmingham, was trussed up with a bar under his knees and was beaten on the feet.

But the beatings have continued throughout their imprisonment. When the group went to sign confessions in the prosecutor's office, they say they were told: "If you change a word in the document, you will get worse than you got before." They say that each of the confessions is a combination of statements they were forced to sign earlier without reading, and in some cases they were blindfolded at the time.

The five Britons say they were seen by a Yemeni doctor, but his examination consisted of asking them: "Are you OK?" Dr Alam suspects the investigators may want the worst signs of torture to disappear before they allow the prisoners to be seen by an independent medical expert.

Feud over toy lands brothers in court



Paul Tatton showing his rare Thunderbird Two model, which he claims his brother tried to get hold of 10 years ago

BY JOHN DAVISON

A BITTER and long-running dispute was aired in court yesterday after a police officer arrested his own brother for swearing at him after they clashed over a rare and valuable Thunderbirds toy.

Paul Tatton, 39, appeared on a charge of threatening behaviour but Nottingham magistrates dismissed the case after bearing of the feud. Mr Tatton is now planning to sue his younger brother, PC Roy Lewis-Tatton, for false arrest.

The court was told that the feud started 10 years ago after Mr Tatton accused his brother, a toy collector, of trying to get Mr Tatton's young son to swap a Dinky toy of Thunderbird Two, worth about £200, for a cheap Action Man. The men had barely spoken since, until an incident outside Mr Tatton's home in Bilborough, Nottinghamshire, last October which culminated in the arrest.

PC Lewis-Tatton, of Long Eaton, Derbyshire, told the court that he arrested his brother because Mr Tatton had struck his own son, Carl, now 18, and threatened himself and a fellow officer. But Mr Tatton said: "I think Roy was using his position as a police officer to have a go at me about previous family feuds. I can't see us being reconciled after this."

Nottinghamshire Police confirmed that Mr Tatton's arrest was being investigated after an official complaint.

Page One

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Heseltine tells Blair: join euro

MICHAEL HESELTINE is ready to break Tory ranks and campaign for Britain to join the single currency - if Tony Blair agrees to lead the crusade.

The former Deputy Prime Minister coupled his offer to join an all-party campaign with a strong attack on Mr Blair's failure to "come off the fence" and declare the Government intended to join the euro.

Last night Mr Heseltine described Mr Blair as "the real villain of the piece, the real villain of Europe" because he knew the longer Britain waited, "the worse deal we will get".

Mr Heseltine said, on BBC Radio's *The Week in Westminster* programme: "He is now indulging in his classic political posture of never offending anybody. Well, you can't govern in that context. You have to be a leader. He's signally failing to be a leader."

Mr Heseltine suggested that he and other pro-EU Tories, such as Kenneth Clarke, would "by William Hague by endorsing a move by Mr Blair to join the single currency."

"It is up to him to give a lead. When that happens, all sorts of

BY ANDREW GRICE
AND STEPHEN CASTLE

things may happen. Public opinion might move, a whole range of people might start arguing the pro case," he said.

But he warned Mr Blair that the campaign on "the most overarching issue of our time" would have no credibility unless the Prime Minister led it. If he failed to do so, he would be "guilty of the abdication of British self-interest".

Mr Heseltine dismissed as "incomprehensible" Mr Hague's policy of ruling out British membership in this Parliament and the next.

Tomorrow Mr Blair will try to boost his European credentials with other EU leaders by signing up to Labour's most positive European policy statement so far at a meeting of socialist party leaders in Vienna.

They will approve a joint manifesto for the European Parliament elections in June, calling for economic and tax co-ordination. It also unreservedly backs the single currency, and goes beyond Labour's position in several areas.

IN BRIEF

Police get longer to question man

DETECTIVES WERE yesterday given another 36 hours to question a man aged 71 over a series of alleged serious sex offences in the 1970s. Sidney Cooke was arrested on Tuesday at Yeovil by Thames Valley Police. West Berkshire magistrates granted detectives a further 36 hours to question him at Newbury police station.

Whites 'likeliest race victims'

WHITE PEOPLE are more likely to be victims of racially motivated crime than those from ethnic minorities in Bradford, West Yorkshire, according to a police survey released yesterday. It found 53 per cent of race victims in the city were white, 29 per cent Pakistani, 9 per cent black, 4 per cent Indian and 2 per cent Bangladeshi.

GP to stand trial for two murders

A family doctor who is charged with killing eight of his women patients was committed for trial for two murders. Harold Shipman, 52, of Row Cross Green, Mottram, Tameside, is to appear at Manchester Crown Court on 1 March for a plea and directions hearing on all the charges.

Ginger signs up BBC's Zoë

BBC RADIO claimed victory in its breakfast radio battle with Chris Evans when, a week before listening figures come out, his company, Ginger Productions, signed Zoë Ball to host an entertainment programme for Channel 4.

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Tiny figleaf covers up the Tories' rampant manhood

I ASSUME the Chancellor had a bedtempered breakfast listening to BBC Radio's Today programme as John Maples outed the Treasury as the only government department that had failed to respond to questions about ministerial travel.

The trip to the House, made for reasons of presentation on the Treasury tandem (cost to the taxpayer, 0.17p for inner-tube depreciation) clearly hadn't improved his humour either, because he arrived on the front bench in a singularly stropic mood, even by his own high standards of unprovoked belligerence. The embarrassment in question never actually materi-

alised incidentally, a half-hearted attempt by John Wilkinson being quickly seen off by collective facepulling from the front bench and a historical footnote from Dennis Skinner, who reminded the House that he was old enough to remember the time when Tories demanded to know why Labour ministers hadn't flown in Concorde.

But by this time everybody was in a right old mood anyway - the tone of general irascibility having been set from the start by the Chancellor and his equally aggressive lieutenant Alan Milburn. Both men reacted to every inter-

vention as if someone had deliberately nudged a pint of beer into their laps. Whatever the subject of the question - and there was at least one uncomfortably awkward one from Francis Maude - they rapidly reverted to taunting the Opposition. Occasionally Labour backbenchers would offer a bit of mollifying sycophancy, as if to defuse the situation, but it rarely worked. Mr Brown would look momentarily soothed by the flattery and then struggle free to throw another wild punch.

This wasn't just a matter of wayward testosterone, either, because the Treasury's three frontbench women were determined to match their boss blow for condescending

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

blow. Dawn Primarolo went first, like a snotty cabin attendant for a budget airline, the enunciation lessons slowly beginning to unpeel

as the passengers got increasingly rowdy. She was the first member to get a warning, after suggesting that the Opposition's selective amnesia about their own record "verges on dishonesty". There was a scandalised "oohh" from Tory members, but her reluctant apology didn't calm things down.

As she sat down after a particularly vacuous evasion, the phrase "stupid woman" sang out from the Conservative benches. Now it was Labour's turn to complain to Miss. One of the rough boys had said a bad word. Miss, who hadn't heard the insult, announced that no one was going for playtime until she

found out what had been said and by whom. Ms Primarolo mouthed the offending phrase silently at her, like one of Les Dawson's northern women negotiating her way past an unmentionable ailment. "Was it Mr [Nicolas] Gibb?" Miss asked sternly, after Labour switchers had fingered the miscreant. "Believe you insulted half the population of this country," Miss continued regally. "As I am one of them I would ask you to withdraw the remark."

After that a certain air of sexual antagonism dominated the proceedings. This was hardly surprising as the Tory Treasury team is entirely male, while women are

unusually well represented on the government side.

Indeed Barbara Roche decided to abandon economic policy altogether in favour of female solidarity. "Not one woman member," she said scornfully, gesturing across at the opposition benches. Unfortunately she had missed the arrival of Julie Kirkbride, who had slipped in quietly, effectively disabling her warhead while it was still in the air. As a man Tory MPs turned to jab their fingers proudly at Ms Kirkbride, who had preserved their modesty at the very last moment - a tiny and barely adequate figleaf for the party's rampant manhood.

Maude claims Brown wants to join ERM

THE CHANCELLOR, Gordon Brown, was accused of wanting to take Britain back into the exchange-rate mechanism yesterday when Tories claimed he was dodging the question of whether he planned to shadow the euro.

But Mr Brown made clear during Question Time that, under the Amsterdam treaty, entry into the ERM before joining the single currency was voluntary. "We have no intention of rejoining the ERM," he said.

Francis Maude, the shadow Chancellor, said exchange-rate stability was necessary for two years before Britain could enter the single currency.

That would require a change of the remit of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee because it would have to pursue interest rates in line with the 11 countries presently in the currency union.

Mr Maude said stringent measures to achieve convergence were necessary now if the Government intended to join the euro soon after the next general election, probably in 2002.

MONETARY UNION

BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

Quoting an article by Gwyn Davies, a senior adviser to Mr Brown and a partner at Goldman Sachs, Mr Maude said: "Mr Davies said at some point the Bank of England will have to be told to shadow the euro instead of inflation for a two-year period to stabilise exchange rates ahead of joining. Do you agree with that?"

The Chancellor, replying, attacked the Tories for being "obsessed" with the ERM because of the debacle on Black Monday 1993 when Britain was forced out of the mechanism.

"When you were at the Treasury as a minister, your government took us in and we had to leave ignominiously as a result of your mistakes," he told Mr Maude.

Mr Brown said he had outlined the five convergence criteria in 1997 and he would not join the single currency unless it was in the British national interest to do so.

In a briefing to parliamentary journalists, Mr Maude later attacked the Chancellor and accused him of "ducking a key question."

"The condition for entry to have exchange-rate stability is there for very good reasons. For Britain to join the euro without our economy being aligned with the Continent would be disastrous both for Britain and the euro area."

"That is why there is a treaty obligation to shadow the euro for two years."

The uncertainty surrounding Mr Brown's policy could potentially destroy the credibility of the Bank's anti-inflationary policy, Mr Maude added.

"So either Gordon Brown thinks this stability will occur by magic, or he is hiding his true intention to force the pound to shadow the euro. If this is what he intends to do he should say so and spell out the consequences."

"He should tell us whether he is intending to direct his whole economic policy to abolishing the pound," he said.



Sarah Wood, Lindsey Calon and Elizabeth Howard had tea at 10 Downing Street yesterday after an invitation from Cherie Blair, who asked their MP Edward Garnier (C, Harborough) to bring them along. Fiona Hanson

New site to cost £12m for each MP

PARLIAMENT
BY SARAH SCHAEFER

THE NEW Westminster building for MPs and their staff will cost more per user than any other building in Britain, it was claimed yesterday.

An article in the trade magazine *Building* says that Portcullis House, at the bottom of Whitehall, will cost £1.2m per MP. A breakdown of costs for the £250m project, due to open in spring 2001, found that furniture costs, including English oak tables and chairs, will come to £14,761 per member.

Plants for a restaurant in a covered courtyard will cost £200,000, with fixtures and fittings adding another £500,000. Sandstone columns will cost another £3m, and £800,000 will go on office chairs and blinds and windows will cost £1.2m.

The building is to be clad in blast-proof bronze at a cost of £30m, and the roof will add another £13m. Legal, architectural and engineering fees add £42m, says *Building*.

The luxury building is designed to provide offices and conference rooms for more than 200 backbenchers and their staff, who cannot be housed in the Palace of Westminster. It has already run into problems after concrete "stitches" built into its sides were found to be too weak.

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Blair praises New Deal as national jobs crusade

TONY BLAIR hailed the Government's flagship New Deal policy as a "national crusade" yesterday despite new figures showing that more than half of its trainees ended back up on the dole.

The Prime Minister said he was "immensely proud" of the scheme as he revealed that it had passed the landmark figure of 100,000 participants.

Yet the statistics also showed that 53 per cent of leavers from the New Deal's full-time education and training option failed to secure unsubsidised work. The programme uses cash from the £5.2bn wind-

EMPLOYMENT

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

fall levy on privatised utilities to put 18 to 24-year-olds in jobs, training or work experience.

Labour pledged in its manifesto to use the New Deal to take 250,000 people under 35 off benefit and help them into work. But the Tories seized on the figures to claim that the policy had failed miserably and was a means of massaging the unemployment statistics.

Damian Green, the shadow Employment minister, said the cost per job of the New Deal

was £11,000, a rate much more expensive than any previous "job creation" scheme.

"The most disturbing fact is that more than half of those who sign up for education and training for the New Deal still do not go into unsubsidised jobs. This is a serious blow to Labour's flagship policy," he said.

"How can they claim this is a sensible use of taxpayers' money? With a job lost every 10 minutes and the New Deal increasingly showing itself as an expensive failure, this Government is betraying the young unemployed."

Earlier, Mr Blair said the

New Deal had already halved the rate of youth unemployment since the Government came into office and offered real hope for youngsters facing long-term unemployment. The Prime Minister was joined by David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, as he revealed that 40,000 youngsters had signed up and 44,000 youngsters had gone into unsubsidised jobs.

"I believe it is a sort of quiet youth revolution in the making and is literally transforming the prospects of thousands of youngsters up and down the country," Mr Blair said.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Uranium riddle at Dounreay

AN INVESTIGATION has confirmed a quantity of weapons-grade uranium was unaccounted for at the Dounreay nuclear plant in Scotland, the Energy minister, John Battle, disclosed.

Digital shares

RADIO GROUPS will be allowed to hold unlimited shareholdings in up to five companies or consortia with digital licences, Culture minister Janet Anderson, announced.

Ethical export

THE AMOUNT of taxpayers' money that was used to help military equipment exports to Indonesia dropped sharply last year after pressure on the Government to comply with its "ethical foreign policy", the Defence Secretary, George Robertson, said.

Backbenchers query 'high-life'

EXPENSES

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

THE ROW, saying the cost for overseas trips had fallen under this Government. Despite ministers' increased responsibilities during Britain's presidency of the European Union and its chairmanship of G8 and Commonwealth Summits, the cost for travel was between £5m and £6m in its first year in power, whereas it had been between £6m and £8m during the last Tory government.

He said the cost for the current year was expected to be £4m. "William Hague, when a social security minister, ran up a bill of £7,000 during a trip to the US," he added.

The spokesman indicated that the Government would in future refuse to answer questions about travel arrangements because it wasted valuable time. "This is something we are not going to play along with."

Francis Maude, the shadow Chancellor, said it was an "outrage to treat such information as a state secret". Tory sources indicated they would be writing to the National Audit Office to ask for an inquiry.

THE HOUSE



Pensions claim

FRANK FIELD, the former social security minister, attacked the Government's pension reforms as "appalling" because they would fail to reduce significantly the numbers of pensioners on means-tested benefits. While at present one in three retired in such circumstances, that proportion would only fall to one in four in 15 years' time if the reforms were implemented.

Speaker insulted

THE TORY MP Nicolas Gibb was rebuked by the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, after he called the Paymaster-General a "stupid woman". She told Mr Gibb: "I believe you insulted half the population of this country about stupid women. I therefore would like an apology from you because I happen to be one of them."

Opera House cuts prices in 'new era'

By DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

THE ROYAL Opera House spelled out its masterplan for becoming the people's opera yesterday. In a big change of ethos to respond to the criticisms and crises of recent years, ticket prices will be reduced, the new House at Covent Garden is to be open all day and there will be weekly free lunchtime concerts.

The ROH also announced its new programme yesterday. It will include a festival to mark Covent Garden's reopening in November with concert performances from Plácido Domingo, Angela Gheorghiu and Roberto Alagna. It will also stage new specially commissioned ballets choreographed by William Forsythe, Twyla Tharp and Ashley Page among others, followed by a more traditional season of opera and ballet. The Royal Ballet will also perform *The Nutcracker* on Millennium Eve.

Michael Kaiser, the American executive director brought in to turn round the fortunes of the House in central London, said it was "the start of a new era". He added that the House's current deficit of £14m would definitely be cleared by March 2000.

The ROH, which has had a massive uplift in its public subsidy from £14m to £20m a year, will reduce its highest ticket price from £250 to £150. Seat prices will be lower on Fridays and Saturdays than the rest of the week. Tickets will start as



Singers Plácido Domingo and Angela Gheorghiu



low as £6 and more than half the house will be priced at under £45 even on Monday to Thursday evenings. The top price for a Royal Ballet performance will be £60, with over half the tickets costing less than £30. Formerly, the best Royal Ballet seats were £70.

Asked whether a top price of £150 for opera did not still seem a lot for a publicly funded institution, Mr Kaiser replied: "On Friday and Saturday nights the top price will be £85. In over half the House prices are £40 or less and most people buy at the mid-price. There will now be a much more unified audience. We have a very full and very rich programme. We are offering these things at prices that are affordable, and we are re-opening on time."

"The new studio theatre excites me most with its weekly free lunchtime concerts. I think

that shows we are entering a new era."

Other key aspects of Mr Kaiser's masterplan include: ■ Opening the Opera House all day for the first time in its his-

tory for tours, meals and drinks ■ Enhanced educational programmes with lectures, music workshops and dance clubs plus the usual school matinees ■ Daily use of the new studio theatre seating 420 people for lunchtime recitals, education and community events

■ A new ballet studio space seating 200 with workshops and small-scale performances programmed by Royal Ballet principal dancer Deborah Bull. But despite the optimism at Covent Garden yesterday the House is still without an artistic director in work alongside Mr Kaiser. Two Americans, Sarah Billingham of the Metropolitan Opera in New York and the freelance director Francesca Zambello, have been approached but have turned the job down. Mr Kaiser said the board was "actively seeking" an artistic director.



The Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, which will hold a festival in November to mark its reopening

Drugs testing at workplace 'inaccurate'

A SENIOR government scientist said yesterday he feared people were losing their jobs because they were showing positive for heroin in drug tests after taking cough mixtures.

Dr David Ostle, of the Forensic Science Service, said the presence of the analgesic codeine in many common medicines and painkillers was leading to people being wrongly accused of using opiates.

He said: "My big concern is that if employers do not do confirmatory testing then there is an opportunity for a miscarriage of justice to occur."

Dr Ostle, who was speaking yesterday at a Standing Conference on Drug Abuse debate in London on drug testing, highlighted a range of flaws in testing methods increasingly being used by employers.

The use of poorly trained people to carry out testing could easily lead to the contamination of samples.

Testing involving hair samples - rather than blood, saliva or urine - is more likely to show positive against dark-haired people than those with grey hair. Some cannabis smokers use commercially available di-

By IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

uretics products that can sometimes lead to the drug being so diluted it is undetectable.

Drug testing is expanding in a rapid but haphazard manner in workplaces. The UK Standing Committee to Develop Guidelines for Workplace Drug Tests will publish a report in July designed to establish a standard blueprint.

Mike Goodman, of the drug advice charity Release, said more people were contacting his organisation over fears about drug testing than any other issue, including the effects of Ecstasy.

He said: "The number one question by a million miles is 'How long does cannabis stay in the system?'"

Other clients had said they had tested positive for opiates after eating poppy seeds on French bread.

Earlier, the UK Anti-Drugs Co-ordinator, Keith Hellawell, said drug testing in the workplace should be an "integral part" of a company's health and safety policy, and should also include alcohol.

Custody fight for battered chimp

By LINUS GREGORIADIS

A CUSTODY BATTLE over an orphaned chimpanzee abused by Mary Chipperfield began yesterday when the animal's new guardians launched a national campaign to keep her.

Trudy has spent the last nine months with a surrogate monkey family at a sanctuary in Dorset. But Chipperfield, convicted on 12 counts of cruelty to the animal at Andover, Hampshire, says the chimpanzee she calls her "baby" should be returned because it is owned neither by her or her husband, Roger Cawley, but their company, Mary Chipperfield Promotions Limited.

Video footage at the trial showed Chipperfield beating the chimp with a riding crop while trying to put her to bed in a tiny box. Trudy, who lived alone, was fed scraps and spent up to 14 hours a day in the box.

Trudy's new guardian, Jim Cronin, director of Monkey World in Wareham, said yes-



Chipperfield: Says Trudy should be returned to her

terday: "I have launched a defence fund to keep Trudy with her family. I have been overwhelmed by the public's reaction, we have had them crying down the phone all morning."

Animal Defenders, the group that secretly shot the videos, is also campaigning to keep Trudy at the sanctuary.

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Surgeon shortage hits transplants

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

TRANSPLANT SURGERY has lost its glamour and its future is threatened by a shortage of donor organs and growing disaffection among young surgeons, specialists said yesterday.

Despite advances that have made transplantation the best treatment for most patients whose organs have failed, the supply of organs is declining and the specialty is facing a crisis, the Royal College of Surgeons warned.

The work has made Sir Magdi Yacoub, the heart transplant pioneer, an international celebrity, but new surgeons are put off by the heavy demands, which include frequent all night and weekend operating.

Sir Peter Morris, professor of surgery at Oxford University, who chaired a college working party on the problem, said: "The provision of organ transplantation as a service is on a knife edge. It is not seen as glamorous or as exciting as it was 20 years ago."

Almost 1,500 organs taken



Transplant surgery has lost its glamour image among young surgeons because of its poor working hours and the declining number of organ donors

J L Martra

from 900 donors were transplanted in 1997 but there are more than 4,500 patients on the waiting list. Demand for organs is rising at over 3 per cent a year but the supply is falling. Fewer people die in road accidents, a

big source of organs, which are down by more than a third since the early 1980s because of safer cars and roads, and fewer die of brain haemorrhages caused by stroke, down 57 per cent since 1976, because

of improved medical care. The working party report, published yesterday, calls for a doubling in registered donors, from 5 to 10 million. Sir Peter said: "We would like to see organ donation discussed with

in families and by the public so it becomes part of the culture. When a loved one dies the family will then ask automatically for the organs to be used."

The increased use of living donors, who can give one kidney or a part of their liver, could also go "a long way" to solving the shortage, he said. That practice has grown in Sweden and the United States. However, the idea of an "opt out" scheme, under which people

would be presumed to have consented to the removal of their organs after death, unless they had registered their opposition, was rejected. "That is a decision the public have to make," Sir Peter said.

Most organ transplants are carried out as emergencies after hours because of the shortage of operating theatre time and because the organs will not keep.

Robert Bosner, a cardiac transplant surgeon from Birmingham, said 98 per cent of heart and lung transplants were carried out after midnight. "There are 300 heart transplants a year and 10 to 20 per cent die on the waiting list," he said. However, thousands more could benefit from transplants if more organs and surgeons were available.

The report says transplants should be concentrated in 20 hospitals, rather than the present 28, to ensure expertise is maintained and no surgeon is on call more than one night in four rather than every other night.

There are 67 kidney transplant surgeons, 21 short of the total needed to cope with the existing workload on a one in four rota, and 22 liver transplant surgeons, 15 short of the number needed. "Consultant positions need to be made more attractive," Sir Peter said.

Cancer drug may prove too costly

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

A DRUG licensed yesterday for the commonest type of brain cancer could ease the suffering of up to 2,000 people in Britain - if they can get hold of it.

Temozolomide is being described as the most important brain cancer treatment for 20 years by the Cancer Research Campaign (CRC), whose scientists discovered it.

In trials, patients have seen a sharp improvement in symptoms but its effect on survival is so far limited, extending life by about three months.

Fears were raised yesterday that some health authorities and NHS trusts might resist using the drug because of the cost - £1,000-£2,000 per month per patient.

Temozolomide is marketed under the brand name Temodal by the drug company Schering-Plough, which negotiated the worldwide rights with the CRC's commercial arm, Cancer Research Campaign Technology.

John Simmons, Schering-Plough's marketing development manager, admitted being concerned that some patients who could benefit from the drug would be denied it.

"This isn't going to be a cheap drug, and unfortunately this will restrict its availability. There will be some NHS trusts who say, 'Sorry, our budget for cancer treatment is this and we can't expand it any further,'" he said.

Professor Gordon McVie,

director general of the CRC, compared Temodal with Taxol, a drug for ovarian cancer whose availability has been restricted by certain health authorities.

He said: "I have no doubt whatsoever there is a pharmacoeconomic benefit from this drug. It's early days. We don't know what it does in other cases of cancer and we're watching very carefully. We need a mechanism in this country to cope with our success. I don't think patients should be penalised."

The drug was licensed yesterday by the European Medical Evaluation Agency for treatment in Britain and Europe of advanced cases of a type of brain cancer called glioblastoma, which affects about 2,000 patients a year in the UK. The disease, which accounts for some two-thirds of brain cancers, is almost always fatal.

Professor McVie said future studies would show what effect the drug had on early-stage brain cancer and whether it should be combined with other treatments. It was possible that combining temozolomide with radiotherapy, currently the main treatment, could significantly improve survival.

A study was also under way to investigate whether temozolomide could help patients with skin cancer.

Hen's eggs help girls learn about sex

BY LOUISE JURY

A HEN'S EGG is the latest recruit in the battle to stop unwanted pregnancies. Teenage girls are being encouraged to care for an egg as if it were a baby, to give them a taste of life as carers and guardians.

Dozens of schools in London are taking part in the initiative, organised by local health authorities and the Brook Advisory Centres.

Each girl is encouraged to look after an egg for a week as if it were her own baby. She prepares a carrycot, lined with tissues, which she keeps with her at all times. The girl feeds and changes the egg six times a day, by replacing the tissues, and keeps a diary of the egg's progress.

Instructions issued to pupils aged 14 and 15 at the Maria Fidelis Convent School in Camden stress that the egg must go everywhere with the girl during the exercise.

"If you go out, you may put your egg in your carrycot in your bag but remember never to leave your bag unattended and don't swing your bag about as you may break the egg."

"If you break your egg you must tell someone at home and pay a pre-arranged fine

(perhaps the price of an egg) or do a household chore. Record it in your diary, stating how you broke it, how you felt about it and the reactions of the person you told. Get a new egg and continue with the exercise."

A Camden council spokeswoman said it was part of a sex education project that was often followed up by encouraging the teenagers to look after dolls simulating babies.

"We all know about the huge problem of unwanted teenage pregnancies. This is an imaginative project designed to get teenagers to really think about the consequences of unwanted pregnancies."

A Family Planning Association spokeswoman said the recent storm about teenage mothers and adoption had highlighted the problem of unplanned babies. The association wanted improved and more widespread sex education.

A Brook Advisory Centre spokeswoman said the project involved schools in Camden, Islington and Southwark. Young mothers and fathers also talk in schools about the realities of being a teenage parent.

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12/HOME NEWS

Rival firms fight for failing school

A HI-TECH "millennium school" specialising in business, arts or sport is being proposed by bidders hoping to take over the first state school to be put out to tender.

Private companies will outline their aspirations for a failing comprehensive school at Guildford, Surrey, in submissions to be put to parents today.

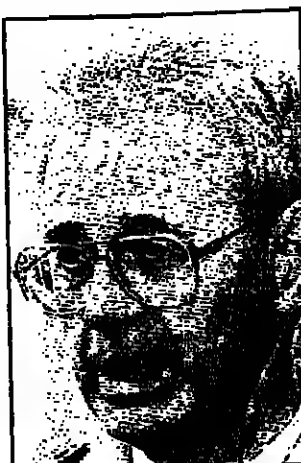
The contractors hope to take over King's Manor School next year under ground-breaking council plans to close the comprehensive and reopen it under private management.

Three companies are in the running: Nord Anglia, a consultancy that runs a string of private schools, careers services and teacher-supply agencies; CFBT, a not-for-profit consultancy that is a major supplier of school inspectors; and 3E's Enterprises, a company set up by Kingshurst City Technology College in Solihull, West Midlands. The most controversial bidder: the American-inspired Education Partnership, has pulled out of the race, claiming English law would give it too little freedom to reform the school.

None of the bidders is proposing to inject large amounts of extra money, but all are promising to turn the comprehensive into a first-class school. The winner will reopen the school next autumn. Private contractors will hire staff and appoint governors, and will be able to earn bonuses if examination targets are met.

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

Nord Anglia, run by the multi-millionaire entrepreneur Kevin McNeany, proposes "The Guildford Millennium School" with a strong bias towards industry. The company's pro-



Nigel de Gruchy: Accused council of abandonment

posal says: "The new school will be close to business and will concentrate on giving all its pupils the skills that will lead to quality employment." Staff are offered an "exciting but perhaps a little unsettling" time.

CFBT is promising a school to "develop a leading-edge specialism in the performing arts, drama or sporting arena", but concentrating on key skills, discipline and better teaching. The company's outline says: "We are not coming to you with

tempting bags of extra cash. CFBT does not believe the problems of the King's Manor school are primarily caused by the shortage of money."

The 3E's bid promises to plough any profits from the King's Manor contract back into the school and the Kingshurst CTC. The company wants an arts college, with "students" rather than pupils, offering education to people of all ages.

King's Manor, which has places for 900 pupils but is only half full, slumped to the bottom of the Surrey league table. Only 20 per cent of pupils gained five or more good GCSEs this year.

Dr Andrew Povey, chairman of Surrey County Council's education committee, said: "They are looking at making the school something different, using technology and lengthening the day - these are all the sorts of things which are required."

But Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, accused the authority of a "woeful abandonment" of its responsibility. "I have seen worse situations, and worse schools, turned round with the help of the local authority."

Parents said their fears had been allayed by meetings with the bidders. Ben Cartwright, chairman of the King's Manor School Action Group, said: "There is a sense of optimism now that we are going to end up with a school that the community can be proud of."



King's Manor School: Parents say they are optimistic the takeover will produce a school the community can be proud of Philip Meeche

Unions bid to run education action zones

TWO OF the biggest teaching unions are finalising bids to run one of the Government's experimental education action zones, the National Union of Teachers revealed last night.

The NUT is in "the advanced stages" of talks with a local authority to become a partner in a bid, and the Association of Teachers and Lecturers confirmed it would enter the bidding for the next 15 zones.

The NUT plans an action zone covering the Blackbird Leys housing estate in Oxford, the scene of riots in 1991 and 1992. Oxfordshire's chief education officer, Graham Badman, said the proposed zone would cover a secondary school and 20 first, middle and special schools in Oxford.

The bid, the first by a teachers' union, will be hugely controversial. Rank and file union members have expressed hostility to the zones, launched by the Government last year to test radical reform of schools. Teachers have opposed proposals for extending the school day and the academic year, as well as the zones' power to impose new pay deals.

This month Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the NUT, attacked the Prime Minister's offer of £20,000 grants to attract parents to run some of the next 15 action zones, saying: "Spin and hype about parents running schools does not connect with reality. Parents want schools to be run by professionals in partnership with them."

So far, 25 zones, run by partnerships of local authorities, schools and business, are in place. Each has an extra £1m to spend, £750,000 from the

BY BEN RUSSELL

Government, the rest from business. Yesterday Mr McAvoy said the union's involvement was a "bulwark" against possible privatisation of the education service. The bid would be announced within two weeks.

"We would want to be there to protect the professionalism as well as the conditions of service of teachers," said Mr McAvoy. "Unions are supposed to promote as well as protect the interests of their members."

"Our research shows that teachers in the classroom are being left out of the process. If we are more involved we will be able to ensure that they are."

The Education minister Charles Clarke said: "I very much welcome the commitment of the NUT to education action zones, and the fact that the union is seriously considering being a partner. It is a very positive step and one I very much welcome."



Doug McAvoy: Aiming to protect his members

Foreign students shun universities

THE OVERSEAS student market, worth £600m a year in fees to universities, is declining sharply, according to official figures published today.

Applications to universities from overseas students are down by 11.2 per cent and those from Malaysia by nearly 56 per cent.

Figures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) show that the financial crisis in Malaysia, traditionally one of the largest sources of overseas students, and competition from universities in other countries, are depressing demand.

The number of students applying from the Irish Republic, where tuition fees were abolished last year, has also fallen sharply. Here, the Government introduced annual tuition fees of £1,000 last September.

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

in Britain have been rising steadily for a decade. They now account for more than one in 10 of all students and universities estimate they bring £1bn a year into the economy.

Overall, applications for higher education are down by 1.8 per cent but more than half the fall is accounted for by the drop in applications from overseas. The decrease in mature applicants continues but the number of applicants from this country who are under 21 is up by 0.4 per cent.

Tony Higgins, Ucas chief executive, said: "There has been a slight overall decline in applications but the picture is similar to last year and there is no evidence tuition fees are putting people off higher education."

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Wet, cold police turn blind eye to looters

By PHIL DAVISON
in Armenia, Colombia

"WE'RE HUNGRY. We're thirsty, we're desperate. No-one even gave us any water." The rain-drenched, middle-aged woman, hauling a potato sack bulging with bags of rice, soap and bottled water, was screaming at an obviously frightened young policeman who half-heartedly tried to stop her running from a looted supermarket.

She was one of thousands of men, women and children, the survivors of Monday's earthquake, who lost their patience with a lack of aid and prized open the metal shutters of dozens of supermarkets and stripped them bare. So great was the hunger and desperation that it became the survival of the fittest, as men wrested stolen food, medicine or toilet paper from women. Outside one supermarket, a young man and his wheelchair were knocked over. He was trampled for a couple of minutes before being righted. Some women bartered in stolen goods. "Is that flour? I'll give you my rice for that," shouted one amid the confusion.

Police reinforcements fired their G-3 automatic rifles into the air to disperse the looters who retaliated by throwing bricks and other earthquake rubble, but eventually gave up.

Stunned by the turn of events, Colombia's president Andres Pastrana moved his government to Armenia - formerly known as La Milagrosa (the Miracle City) because of its picturesque setting - but now 70 per cent in ruins without water, electricity or communications. The mayor says the entire city centre - an area bigger than London's West End, with banks, trendy shops and restaurants - may have to be demolished.

Mr Pastrana also called in



Survivors of the earthquake looting stores in Armenia yesterday. More police and the military have been called in a bid to restore order

2,000 more police and military police to restore order. The local police had already been demoralised by losing their headquarters and around 20 colleagues in the quake. They, too, were wet and hungry. Mr Pastrana was said to be considering bringing in troops hardened in battle with leftist guerrillas and ruthless cocaine gangs.

The numbers of desperate

citizens of this city, in what is known as Colombia's eye of the storm (coffee hub) because of its world-renowned crop, increased as news spread that food was available. Thousands flocked to the area on foot, in cars, on bicycles, farm lorries or tractors, causing a chaotic traffic jam in torrential rain. The police, many from the same working-class Santander barrio of the city, eventually

gave up. "In the end, it just seemed better to let them get on with it," said assistant police chief Dagoberto Garcia. "There's been too much death here already. We don't want to cause any more."

Despite a dusk-to-dawn curfew, looters moved from basic essentials to furniture and electronic goods. Small shopkeepers, wearing white armbands to recognise each other, set up vig-

ilante groups to protect their wares. Police said vandals, wielding guns or machetes, were robbing the looters.

In the town of Pereira, the sound of police sirens continued throughout yesterday as looting spread in the badly-hit working class city centre.

Price rises have added to the frustration of victims with the unscrupulous charging four times the regular price for rice

and sugar. Nor could they understand why tons of overseas aid - food, medicine and blankets - were piling up at Armenia's tiny airfield while nothing appeared to be reaching them.

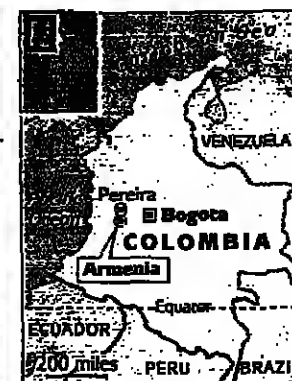
The Red Cross said the death toll was now just short of 900 but likely to rise several-fold since only 20 per cent of rubble had so far been cleared.

The scene in the "coliseum," or sports arena, of the Uni-

Mariana Bazo/Reuters

versity of Quindio (the province of which Armenia is the capital) was horrific. Several hundred decomposing bodies lay scattered, face-up, across the basketball court in rag doll positions while relatives sought for loved-ones, amid a stench far worse than a long-uncleared rubbish dump.

Several dozen bodies were dug out of the rubble yesterday, emerging bloated and covered



in dust. Despite the virtual non-stop rain, reducing the chance of survivors, many relatives did not give up hope. Spirits were lifted on Wednesday when two teenage boys, 16-year-old Daniel Acevedo and 13-year-old Jelson Lopez, were hauled from rubble almost 48 hours after the quake. Daniel said he had survived by singing hymns to himself, keeping his head warm in a crash helmet that ended up beside him and drinking his own urine using his hands as a cup.

In a park where thousands of refugees are sleeping on sodden grass with only plastic sheets as their roofs, there were moving scenes yesterday as hundreds lined up in single file to get messages to relatives elsewhere in Colombia or abroad.

Each were given 10 seconds by the local TV channel Telecafe which is also transmitted "live" to areas of the United States where many Colombians live.

Men, women and children tried to put on a brave face but many broke down as one after another gave a similar message: "Mum and dad, this is just to let you know that I'm fine. I'm in good health and still trust in God. I have nowhere to live because he house fell down into the street but I'll be alright."

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E-mail: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk

BUSINESS

Ford aims for the top with \$6.5bn Volvo cars takeover

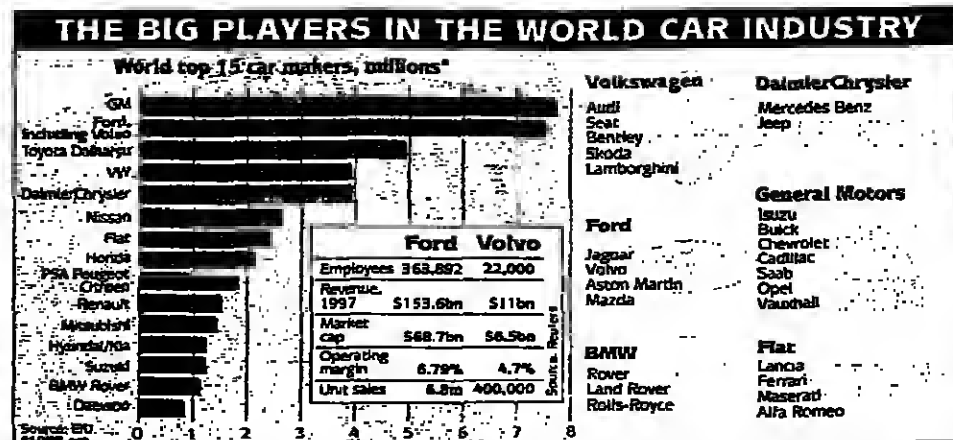
BY MICHAEL HARRISON

FORD YESTERDAY set its sights on becoming the world's leading manufacturer of luxury cars after announcing the \$6.5bn (£4bn) takeover of the car division of Volvo.

The deal with the Swedish manufacturer, the latest in a series of mega-mergers in the motor industry, will increase Ford's world market share to 14 per cent and is likely to prompt a further wave of consolidation.

Jacques Nasser, Ford chief executive, said it intended to produce 700,000 luxury vehicles next year, with the ultimate aim of reaching 1 million units a year. He said Volvo, together with Ford's other luxury marques, Lincoln and Jaguar, gave it "a wonderful footprint" in the upmarket car sector.

Mr Nasser also hinted that Ford, the world's second-highest car maker behind Gen-



eral Motors, was still on the acquisition trail. "It is a good time to be expanding the business," he said. "We never say never, and we are always eager to look at any opportunity that makes sense for us."

Ford is rumoured to have been in takeover talks with Nissan of Japan and BMW,

which owns Rover and the Rolls-Royce marque.

Ford of Italy said it had been in discussions to buy the entire Volvo group, including its commercial vehicles arm, but had not been interested in a deal involving only the car division.

Compared with Ford, which made 6.8 million cars last year,

overpaid for Volvo. The car division has revenues of about \$11bn a year and is reckoned to be worth about \$5bn.

But Bill Ford, chairman of Ford, said the deal would pay its way from day one. He said there would be increased sales and economies of scale in purchasing, engineering, platform development and distribution. Ford declined to put a value on the expected savings, but it indicated there would be no plant closures.

Volvo said it would use the \$6.5bn of cash to "aggressively expand" its commercial vehicles division, which makes trucks and buses and construction equipment. Volvo has already bought a 13 per cent stake in rival Scandinavian truck maker Scania and proposed a full merger, creating the biggest truck maker in Europe with 50 per cent of the market.

Ford and Volvo will jointly

own the Volvo marque, applying it to their respective range of vehicles. Mr Nasser said there was "huge potential" to expand Volvo's product range and geographic presence: 60 per cent of its sales are in Europe and there is virtually no overlap between Ford's models and the Volvo range, which runs from \$40/\$50 small and medium-sized cars to the \$80.

Mr Johansson said Volvo examined many options before deciding to sell out to Ford. The US investment bank JP Morgan conducted the auction.

Mr Nasser pledged Volvo would continue to be managed from Gothenburg and retain a strong research and development presence in Sweden. He said Ford would respect and build on the traditional strengths of the Volvo brand, safety, care for the environment and family-oriented design.

Outlook, page 19

BRIEFING

Budget day set for 9 March

BUDGET DAY will be on Tuesday 9 March, it was announced yesterday. Responding to questions in the House of Commons, Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, named the day for his third Budget statement and said the government would continue to be disciplined on public spending.

The Chancellor reaffirmed that the Government would meet its golden rule of only borrowing to invest. He insisted Britain would not rejoin the European Exchange Rate Mechanism, despite claims by the Conservatives that this would be a condition of eventual entry to the euro.

Losses increase at Mulberry



MULBERRY, the troubled luxury goods group, reported increased first-half losses and scrapped its interim dividend. Founder Roger Saul (pictured) said trading was "as difficult and tough to read as I can remember". Losses rose to \$803,000 compared with \$722,000 last time.

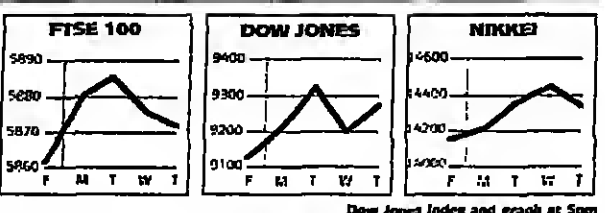
The company, which has issued a string of profits warnings since floating on AIM two years ago, has been hit by the strong pound and a slump in demand from Asian buyers. Like-for-like retail sales are down 5 per cent on last year.

White knight for P&S newspapers

A CONSORTIUM of investors led by Charles Villiers, former head of Scottish Radio's newspaper division, emerged yesterday as one of at least four potential white knights willing to rescue Portsmouth & Sunderland newspapers from Johnston Press. Talks have taken place with Charles Brims, the chief executive of P&S, and the consortium has the resources to top Johnston's offer, Mr Villiers said.

Johnston acquired a 14.99 per cent stake last Friday at 1,600p and has issued a tender offer at the same price for a further 10 per cent, which closes on Saturday. The shares were flat at 1,687.5p.

STOCK MARKETS



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Davos to focus on Brazil and US

BY JEREMY WARNER
in Davos, Switzerland

THE BRAZIL crisis and the growing US trade deficit are expected to top the agenda at informal meetings of G7 leaders today and this weekend at the annual World Economic Forum meeting in Davos.

Officials said Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, would press Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, on the need for urgent reform of the International Monetary Fund in view of the seriousness of the Brazil crisis.

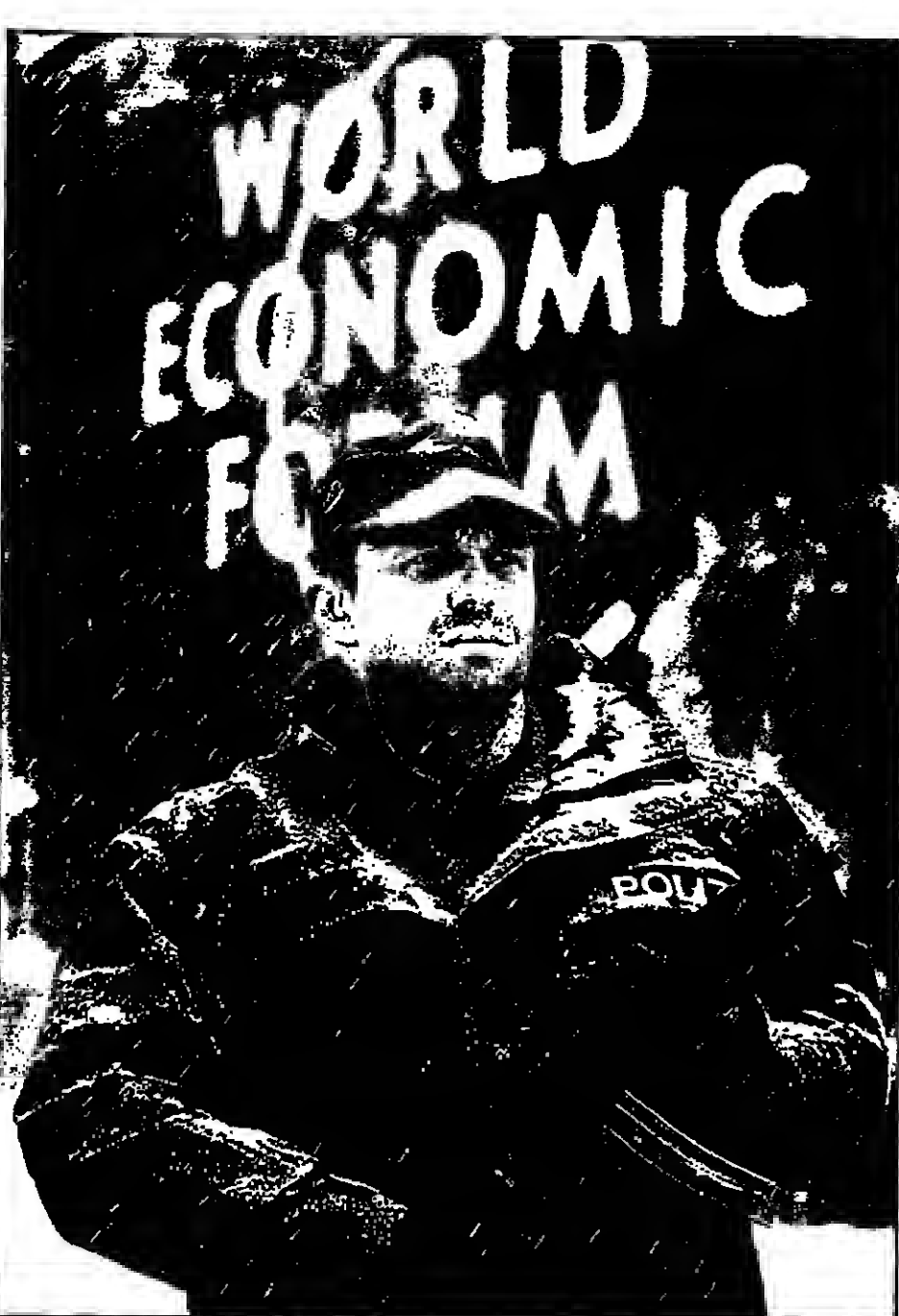
Mr Rubin plans bilateral talks with finance ministers at the Forum, including those from France and Mexico. A general, albeit private, meeting of all political leaders attending the Forum is also planned.

The Brazilian finance minister, Pedro Sampaio Malan, cancelled his visit at the last minute because of intense negotiations with the IMF.

More prosaic reasons were cited by others for non-attendance at what is widely seen as Europe's premier business networking conference. Heavy snowfalls caused extensive disruption on roads approaching the Swiss Alpine resort, forcing some delegates, including US Vice-President Al Gore, to abandon plans to fly in by helicopter and use the train.

A less visible Russian presence than in previous years was blamed on growing economic disintegration in the former Soviet Union. "Davos is no longer interested in us, and we are not interested in Davos," said Russia's leading business daily, *Kommersant*.

Amid anxiety about the US position as spender of last resort in the world economy, Ken Gais, chief economist and strategist with Deutsche Bank for Japan and Asia Pacific, said further interest-rate cuts and reduction measures around the world would keep financial markets robust this year.



A security guard stands in front of the Davos Congress Centre yesterday as the annual week-long World Economic Forum gets under way. Remy Steinegger

COMPANY RESULTS						
Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Alphacore (SP)	11.46m (13.62m)	0.900m (0.01m)	1.23p (0.02p)	-	-	-
Bentley Systems (F)	38.01m (24.51m)	3.01m (2.56m)	4.78p (4.67p)	2.0p (1.55p)	15.04.99	08.02.99
British Group (I)	295.4m (260.2m)	29.5m (21.3m)	7.16p (5.2p)	1.53p (1.45p)	18.04.99	08.02.99
Consolidated Coal (I)	2.58m (2.88m)	0.04m (0.02m)	-0.2p (-0.2p)	-	-	-
Cryptolite (I)	2.87m (4.1m)	-1.37m (-0.07m)	-4.5p (-0.8p)	-	-	-
Fairphone consulting (I)	1.53m (0.705m)	0.315m (0.147m)	0.71p (0.11p)	0.04p (0.03p)	06.04.99	15.03.99
Goodland Group (I)	24.52m (22.53m)	0.55m (0.28m)	0.74p (0.3p)	0.34p (0.2p)	28.02.99	08.02.99
International Credit (I)	27.22m (21.12m)	0.67m (0.2m)	10.6p (5.9p)	3.8p (2.6p)	26.02.99	08.02.99
Muller (F)	4.24m (4.09m)	-4.58m (-3.09m)	-2.72p (-1.61p)	-	-	-
Mys (I)	288m (178m)	58m (28m)	7.5p (4.4p)	1.21p (1.05p)	06.04.99	08.02.99
National Group (I)	12.94m (13.77m)	-0.83m (-0.72m)	-2.70p (-2.3p)	-0.75p	-	-
NTV Group (I)	47.8m (38.6m)	1.04m (0.94m)	8.5p (5.9p)	2.9p (2.9p)	03.05.99	08.03.99

(F) - Fiat (I) - Intern (I) - Quarterly (SP) - Split Period (N) - Nine Months

For big returns, go with the little guys

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

BIG IS ugly in fund management. That, broadly, is the conclusion to be drawn from the latest CAPS survey, the authoritative study of fund management performance sent out each year to Britain's pension fund trustees.

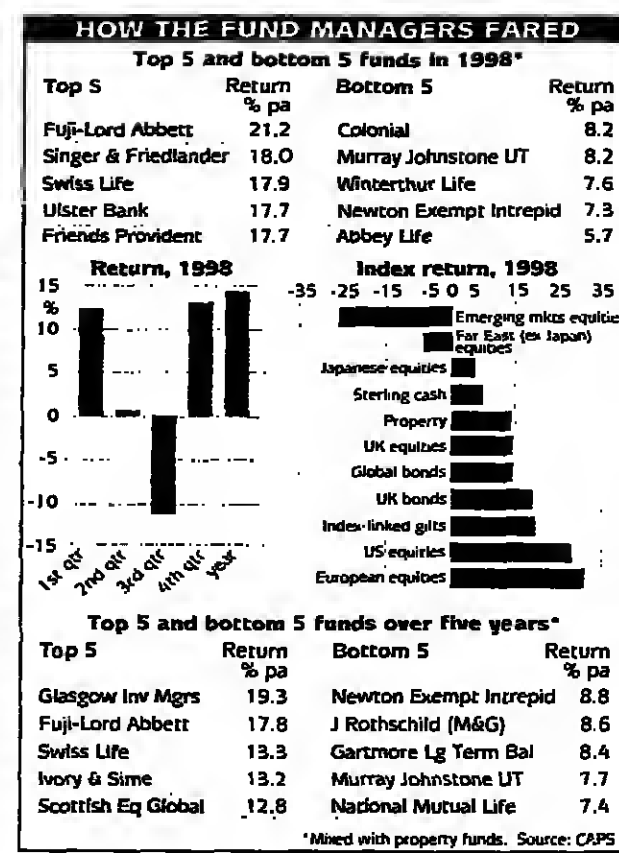
The 1998 survey, published yesterday by the CAPS consultancy, shows big household names such as Schroders, Mercury and Phillips & Drew languishing near the bottom of the table, while star billing is taken by virtual unknowns.

The best performer in terms of the return on the flagship mixed-with-property fund last year is the little-known Fuji-Lord Abbott fund, 75 per cent owned by Fuji, the Japanese bank, and 25 per cent by Lord Abbott, America's second-biggest independent fund management group. It returned 21.2 per cent, compared with an average of 13 per cent. Second place was taken by Singer & Friedlander at 18 per cent, and third place went to Swiss Life.

Fi, followed surprisingly by Royal Sun Alliance, emerges as the most consistent performer over the past five years. "The one thing the top five have in common is that they are all small," says CAPS chief executive John Clump. Fuji manages \$110 globally, but the UK fund tracked by the CAPS survey manages just £26m.

Simon Steele, Fuji's UK fund manager, says: "We do things slightly differently from the competition." The firm's style, he says, is not to pick stocks but to identify which industries have the best growth potential and pricing flexibility globally. "We draw up the ideal characteristics and then go around the world and try and find them." The result is a list of 800 "best of breed" companies worldwide that are then screened financially and whittled down to a portfolio of 50 to

News analysis: The major fund managers languish among the also-rans in the latest CAPS survey



60 companies in which the fund actually invests. Clearly in the dunces' class was Phillips & Drew, which came 67 out of 67 in the last quarter, although for the year the dubious distinction of coming bottom goes to Abbey Life. P&D fund manager Tony Dye's dogged, now legendary determination to stay heavily in cash and bonds, avoid the US equity market altogether and be underweight in UK shares

ing from the severe setback it was dealt by the downfall of high-flyer Peter Young three years ago, ended a respectable 20th.

One factor that has hit the performance of many larger British funds is their faith in the UK small and medium-sized company sector, which seriously disappointed last year. David Montgomery, it has been said in the City, may not be the only FTSE 250 chief executive to find his job a casualty of the pressure on asset managers to hasten the process of delivering the value they had expected in these stocks.

While the FTSE 100 rose by 17.5 per cent last year, the FTSE 250 advanced just 4.2 per cent. The unloved small cap index was down 8.1 per cent.

The big funds have also pursued a strategy of concentrating their holdings so that they take fewer, bigger bets on a handful of companies - great when their number comes up, but disastrous if bets go wrong.

Perhaps the most surprising statistic from the survey is that more than half of fund managers underperformed the index: not the first time this point has been made, but worrying still, considering that these people charge whopping fees to manage our pensions.

Even more astonishing is that, judging from the growth of funds under management, underperforming the index, while embarrassing, does the big boys little harm. Everyone acknowledges the importance of performance, but on this score trustees rarely vote with their cash. Mr Clump says: "Managers get fired, first because they are not doing what they said they would do, and second because of poor administration, like getting portfolio statements wrong. A very poor third comes performance."

Fishy stories in the markets

STRANGE EVENTS seem to be stirring in London Docklands this week. First there was a report that the London Stock Exchange was moving from its historic base in Threadneedle Street to New Billingsgate Market, the fish market adjacent to Canary Wharf.

Then there was the story that Bank of America has junked plans to move its European Headquarters to Canary Wharf "because of fears over Britain being outside the euro". Both stories have been firmly denied by the parties involved - and both have got everyone hopping mad.

A spokesman for the Stock Exchange denied the very idea that the exchange planned to build a new dealing floor in the former fish market. "We've only just got electronic."

A Bank of America spokesman dismissed the idea that it had been scared off moving to Canary Wharf by Tony Blair's

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

dithering over European Monetary Union as "fantasy". Maybe. But both stories indicate the nervousness in the Square Mile over London's future, particularly over the first month's figures for how much trading in the euro has been won by London - due out any day now.

Shore of Israel

SHORE CAPITAL Group, an independent broking and corporate finance house with strong links to Israel, is benefitting from global financial turmoil. The 30-strong firm, which is a quarter-owned by Bank Leumi, is setting up an Israel Desk headed by Ian Kennedy, formerly head of emerging



around the same time Caspian shut its doors. Still, it's good news for Howard Shore, who founded Shore Capital Group in 1985. "We're into the Israeli market for the long term," he says.

Butler rebuff

MICHAEL HARDERN, the freelance butler and "carpet-bagger in chief", has failed in his campaign to get elected to the boards of all seven of the largest remaining building societies, in order to force them to convert to banks.

The Chelsea Building Society said yesterday that it had rejected the nomination of Mr Hardern as a director "through lack of sufficient support".

Mr Hardern's resolution to force the society to convert, triggering "windfall" payoffs to its members, was also rejected. "Following legal advice on the grounds that it was invalid".

So far Mr Hardern, who also wants every citizen of the UK to be made a member of the House of Lords, has only been

CML top brass

MEANWHILE, THE Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), set up to represent both converted and unconverted building societies as well as the banks, has got some new top brass.

No freelance butlers here, though. George Wise, managing director of NatWest Mortgage Services, succeeds John Massey as chairman of the CML. Gren Bellwell, deputy chief executive of Halifax, and Philip Williamson, marketing and commercial director of Nationwide Building Society, both become deputy chairmen of the CML. They succeed Charles Toner of Abbey National and George Wise.

E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk

Notice to Halifax borrowers.

The variable base rate for Halifax plc mortgage accounts (but not secured personal loan accounts) will be decreased by 0.25% p.a. to 7.45% p.a.

The new interest rate will take effect from 1st February 1999 for existing borrowers. The monthly payment will be amended from April 1999 for mortgage accounts on Budget Plan and from the next review date for mortgage accounts on Annual Review.

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29th January, 1999

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One Year Variable Rate Bond & One Year Variable Rate Bond By Post	6.55	6.55	5.24
25,000 - £49,999.99	6.50	6.50	5.20
£50,000 - £99,999.99	6.45	6.45	5.15
£100,000 - £499,999.99	6.40	6.40	5.12
£500,000 - £999,999.99	6.35	6.35	5.08
£1,000,000 - £4,999,999.99	6.30	6.30	5.04
£5,000,000 - £9,999,999.99	6.25	6.25	5.00
£10,000,000 - £49,999,999.99	6.20	6.20	4.96
£50,000,000 - £99,999,999.99	6.15	6.15	4.92
£100,000,000 - £499,999,999.99	6.10	6.10	4.88
£500,000,000 - £999,999,999.99	6.05	6.05	4.84
£1,000,000,000 - £4,999,999,999.99	6.00	6.00	4.80
£5,000,000,000 - £9,999,999,999.99	5.95	5.95	4.76
£10,000,000,000 - £49,999,999,999.99	5.90	5.90	4.72
£50,000,000,000 - £99,999,999,999.99	5.85	5.85	4.68
£100,000,000,000 - £499,999,999,999.99	5.80	5.80	4.64
£500,000,000,000 - £999,999,999,999.99	5.75	5.75	4.60
£1,000,000,000,000 - £4,999,999,999,999.99	5.70	5.70	4.56
£5,000,000,000,000 - £9,999,999,999,999.99	5.65	5.65	4.52
£10,000,000,000,000 - £49,999,999,999,999.99	5.60	5.60	4.48
£50,000,000,000,000 - £99,999,999,999,999.99	5.55	5.55	4.44
£100,000,000,000,000 - £499,999,999,999,999.99	5.50	5.50	4.40
£500,000,000,000,000 - £999,999,999,999,999.99	5.45	5.45	4.36
£1,000,000,000,000,000 - £4,999,999,999,999,999.99	5.40	5.40	4.32
£5,000,000,000,000,000 - £9,999,999,999,999,999.99	5.35	5.35	4.28
£10,000,000,000,000,000 - £49,999,999,999,999,999.99	5.30	5.30	4.24
£50,000,000,000,000,000 - £99,999,999,999,999,999.99	5.25	5.25	4.20
£100,000,000,000,000,000 - £499,999,999,999,999,999.99	5.20	5.20	4.16
£500,000,000,000,000,000 - £999,999,999,999,999,999.99	5.15	5.15	4.12
£1,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £4,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	5.10	5.10	4.08
£5,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £9,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	5.05	5.05	4.04
£10,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £49,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	5.00	5.00	4.00
£50,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £99,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.95	4.95	3.96
£100,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £499,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.90	4.90	3.92
£500,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.85	4.85	3.88
£1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £4,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.80	4.80	3.84
£5,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £9,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.75	4.75	3.80
£10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £49,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.70	4.70	3.76
£50,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £99,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.65	4.65	3.72
£100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £499,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.60	4.60	3.68
£500,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.55	4.55	3.64
£1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £4,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.50	4.50	3.60
£5,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £9,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.45	4.45	3.56
£10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £49,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.40	4.40	3.52
£50,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £99,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.35	4.35	3.48
£100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £499,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.30	4.30	3.44
£500,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.25	4.25	3.40
£1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £4,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.20	4.20	3.36
£5,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £9,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.15	4.15	3.32
£10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £49,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.10	4.10	3.28
£50,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £99,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.05	4.05	3.24
£100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £499,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	4.00	4.00	3.20
£500,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	3.95	3.95	3.16
£1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £4,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	3.90	3.90	3.12
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£10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £49,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	3.80	3.80	3.04
£50,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £99,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	3.75	3.75	3.00
£100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £499,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	3.70	3.70	2.96
£500,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	3.65	3.65	2.92
£1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £4,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	3.60	3.60	2.88
£5,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £9,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	3.55	3.55	2.84
£10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £49,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	3.50	3.50	2.80
£50,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £99,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	3.45	3.45	2.76
£100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 - £499,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999,999.99	3.40	3.40	2.72
£500,000,00			

Bid fever as small caps stage comeback

ARE MID and small cap shares, after seven months of unrelenting gloom, at last staging a comeback?

The contested bid for LucasVariety, a Footsie constituent, has focused attention on the bombed-out metal bidders and helped to alert investors to the undoubted value lurking on the stock market under the card.

Bids, often in cash, for the smaller fry are becoming a daily event and management buy-outs and share buy-backs also tend to underline the hidden value.

The mid cap index, admittedly from a depressed level, has risen nearly 130 points over the past four days to 4,958.9. Even so it is still near-

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

group Airtech, where a predator hovers, rose 7p to 38p. And the £3.9bn Ford descent on Volvo's car division propelled Henlys 44p to 472.5p. Volvo has 10 per cent of the vehicle group.

Rumours of bid action produced further progress at Albright & Wilson, where suddenly active fund manager Phillips & Drew has nearly 25 per cent. The shares rose a further 10.5p to 76.5p with a management buy-out the favourite guess. Another chemical group, Croda International, put on 18.5p to 217.5p.

Engineers continued their progress. Morgan Crucible hardened a further 14p to 202.5p. British 7.5p to 118p and IMI 9p to 215.5p. Glynned International firmed 5.5p to 164.5p. Six Hundred Group was 9.5p better at 77p.

LucasVariety and the already spoken for Advest Automotive clearly enjoy the distinction of reviving interest in the smaller groups, LV firmed 7p to 290.5p as TRW, a US group, rolled out a bid, and rival Federal-Mogul continued to hover.

Granada, on the other hand, is seen as preparing a predatory excursion. There is a growing suspicion the leisure group has decided on its next target and is flexing its muscles. The shares rose 34p to 1,086p. Whitbread, up 16p to 850p, is one rumoured target.

Footsie, after riding high for much of the session again, subsided towards the close, ending 3.9 points down at 5,872.5. Trading was again hectic with turnover nudging 1.3 billion shares. At mid-afternoon the index was up 83.4.

The heavy volume seems to reflect determined overseas buying with many domestic fund managers prepared to unload some stock on which

they are nursing comfortable profits. Government stocks were little changed.

Bass, for no apparent reason although there was talk of a market maker being caught on the hop, led the Footsie leader board, gaining 52.5p to 851.5p. The shares have come down from 1,175p. There are hopes the brewer and hotelier will roll out a positive trading statement at next week's shareholders meeting.

United News & Media was given a Merrill Lynch push, gaining 33.5p to 547p and Imperial Chemical Industries released 24.5p to 525p as WestLB Panmure said sell.

Bowater, the electronics group, was the subject of heavy turnover.

Salomon Smith Barney, just appointed joint stockbroker replacing Credit Lyonnais, was thought to have been responsible for much of the 15 million Seaq volume. Bowthorpe is anxious to expand in the US and was attracted by Salomon's powerful trans-Atlantic presence.

Mortgage banks were hit. HSBC turned negative and the retreat, already evident following Northern Rock's competitive stance, quickly got underway. Halifax fell 32p to 722.5p and Abbey National 53p to 1,202p. Northern lost 9.5p to 488p.

Clearance by the European Commission of P&O's joint venture with Stena Line encouraged the cruise group to record a 28p gain at 638.5p.

British Land gained 10p to 443p. Analysts are due to meet the company next week.

Oils were mixed. BP Amoco fell 5p to 836p and Shell firmed to 307.75p. Lasmo added 6.25p to 103.75p. Emerald Energy edged ahead to

4p; it is now expected its rights issue will be announced next week.

The shake-up at struggling Premier Farnell, the electronic components distributor, lowered BICC, the cables and construction group where take over hopes swirl; the price lost 2p to 59p.

Profit warnings took their toll. Save, the petrol retailer, lost 14.5p to 38p after saying it would not pay a final dividend.

PHILLIPS & DREW has edged its stake in the voting shares of Young & Co's Brewery to 21.2 per cent. The fund manager is adopting a more aggressive stance but it was not evident when last year Guinness Peat attempted to change the family controlled group's antiquated capital structure. Whether P&D's new found hands-on approach will extend to linking with GP remains to be seen. Young was unchanged at 612.5p.

dend; four years ago the shares were 269.5p.

Floral Street was suspended at 32.5p while it considers its position. The shares were once 343p.

Systems Integrated, a software group, continued to romp ahead despite the company's comment that it knows of no reason for the excitement. The shares gained a further 9.25p to 28.75p. They have been above 100p.

Dragon Oil, which fared on the 69 per cent shareholding of Dubai's Emirates National Oil Co, was hit by profit taking, collapsing 7.5p to 20.5p.

Darby, a building materials group, fell 4p to 33.5p as Mike Darby quit as chairman and chief executive. Mark Abrahams, a non-executive director, has taken over.

Farnell to invest £45m in going back to basics

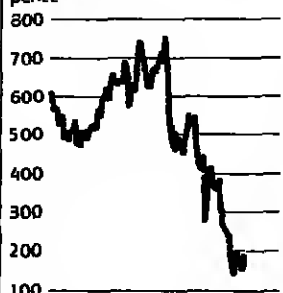
BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

PREMIER FARNELL, the electrical components distributor, unveiled an extensive shake-up yesterday designed to rebuild the business after the disastrous £1.8bn Premier acquisition in America in 1996.

The three-year "investment for growth" strategy is the result of a six-month review by John Hirst, appointed chief executive last summer. It will see the group invest £45m over three years in reshaping systems, creating common customer and product databases and developing more efficient purchasing and logistics systems in the US.

A further £15m a year will be invested on upgraded sales training, increasing the number of catalogues and range of products. The group will increase its electronic commerce capability so that its largest customers, such as Philips, are linked directly to Premier Farnell through intranet systems. Geographic expansion is also on the cards, with Germany and other European markets first on the list.

The overhaul will result in a £10m exceptional charge to the accounts for the year to 31 January. Most expenditure will be covered by the sale of surplus assets, such as spare free-

PREMIER FARNELL: AT A GLANCE							
Market value:£520m, share price 191.5p (+29p)							
Trading record	94	95	96	97	98		
Turnover (£m)	320	514	539	983	744		
Pre-tax profits (£m)	49.1	59.2	111	173	139		
Earnings per share (p)	23.2	27.5	54.7	36.5	25.3		
Dividends per share (p)	7.0	3.5	10.3	12.0	12.9		
Profit by division		Share price					
£m		pence					
Catalogue Distribution							
Industrial Products							
Appliance Spares							
Product Manufacturing							
		Source: Euromonitor					
	0 20 40 60 80	94	95	96	97	98	99

hold sites in the US. Mr Hirst said: "The conclusion of the last six months' work is that to realise Premier Farnell's full potential, we must run it as a coherent group rather than as an unfocused conglomerate."

Mr Hirst denied that the Premier deal had been a mistake, saying the group would not have won several of its global clients without the increased international scope of its operations.

US, for example, Premier Farnell has lost more than 1 per cent of market share, although US sales have now been "stabilised".

Many back-office functions will now be streamlined, leaving scope for expansion in the key areas of products and catalogues. "Value has been destroyed," Mr Hirst admitted. "We have to get back on track."

The changes were welcomed by analysts, who marked the shares 29p up to 191.5p. However, they have still lost three-quarters of their value since 1996. Earnings per share are lower now than in 1995, although sales have risen 50 per cent. Mr Hirst has already cut the dividend after last October's profits warning, but rebuilding investor confidence will take some time.

Analysts backed the review. Ed Wright at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson said the City was "relieved" the company was going back to basics. Another said Premier was "a growth story with a catalyst to it".

On profit forecasts of £108m for the year ahead ended, the shares trade on a forward multiple of 11. This stock has proved a huge disappointment in the recent past, and a full recovery is likely to take some time. But in two years' time this period could look like the turning point.

Outlook positive for software firm

MISYS, THE flagship of Britain's fast-growing information technology sector, yesterday dispelled fears of a steep fall in IT investment by banks after the recent spending spree to comply with the euro and the millennium deadlines.

Kevin Lomax, the software group's executive chairman, said that although growth in IT spending would not match last year's rise of 14 per cent, it was set to remain between 6 and 10 per cent in the next three years.

His comments came as the group, a market leader in financial software, underlined

the boom in demand for IT services in the past six months with a 10 per cent increase in interim pre-tax profit to £59m. The results were driven by a buoyant performance in the banking division and a marked improvement in Medic, the healthcare software specialist bought last year for almost \$1bn. The numbers were ahead of market expectations and triggered a series of profit upgrades, sparking a rally in the share price which closed over 17 per cent higher to 586p.

Mr Lomax maintained that Misys, which derives some 60 per cent of revenues from selling software to financial businesses, would benefit from the flow of IT upgrades which had been put off until after the euro launch and after the millennium bug problem had been solved. "We believe there will be a swing back to other systems," he said.

The results came as the company announced the sale of eight non-core companies in its information systems division to Kleinwort Benson's venture capital arm, for around £30m.

Misys said the sale would lead to a £20m charge in the full-year accounts due to a change in accounting rules.

Analysts said that apart from the exceptional charge and the possible costs of integrating a recently bought US company, the outlook for Misys was positive. David Greenall, an analyst with Credit Suisse First Boston, said the shares were better value than rivals such as Sage and SAP of Germany.

Other observers said the stock would receive a fillip from its expected return to the blue-chip FTSE-100 index in March.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES									
Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	Euro Spot	1 month	3 month
UK	1.0000			0.6070	0.6074	0.6081	0.6913		
Australia	2.6349	2.6333	2.6304	1.5994	1.5996	1.5997	1.8215		
Austria	19.905	19.887	19.855	12.002	12.076	12.076	13.7623		
Belgium	58.395	58.230	57.969	35.230	35.371	35.253	40.340		
Canada	2.5128	2.5112	2.5083	1.5252	1.5254	1.5254	1.7371		
Denmark	10.465	10.476	10.488	6.5280	6.5211	6.5063	7.8347		
Euro	1.4466	1.4435	1.4371	1.1389	1.1405	1.1442	1.0000		
Finland	8.6009	8.5625	8.5446	5.2206	5.2133	5.1947	5.9457		
France	9.4689	9.4693	9.4693	5.4217	5.4216	5.4216	6.3589		
Germany	2.8252	2.8232	2.8107	1.7173	1.7149	1.7093	1.9558		
Greece	464.73	466.49	470.36	262.08	262.25	262.58	277.00		
Hong Kong	7.7691	7.7691	7.7691	7.7691	7.7691	7.7691	8.6255		
Ireland	1.1393	1.1368	1.1317	0.6915	0.6915	0.6915	0.7976		
Italy	1.7691	1.7691	1.7691	1.6978	1.6978	1.6978	1.9321		
Japan	192.19	191.37	189.58	116.66	116.25	115.29	132.88		
Malaysia	6.2605	6.3842	6.5775	3.9000	3.8780	4.0000	4.3278		
Mexico	18.070			10.1650			11.568		
Netherlands	3.1878	3.1810	3.1669	1.9349	1.9323	1.9259	2.2037		
New Zealand	3.0838	3.0823	3.0797	0.5343	0.5343	0.5343	2.1318		
Norway	12.8081	12.772	12.729	7.5115	7.5276	7.515	8.580		
Portugal	200.01	200.35	200.12	176.03	175.79	175.21	200.48		
Saudi Arabia	6.1799	6.1820	6.1955	3.7507	3.7552	3.7677	4.2717		
Singapore	2.7851	2.7755	2.7698	1.6805	1.6859	1.6790	1.9153		
South Africa	9.9555	10.0369	10.1219	6.0428	6.0969	6.2108	6.8821		
Spain	240.89	240.18	238.12	145.09	145.42	146.38	186.38		
Sweden	12.725	12.725	12.725	7.7390	7.7353	7.7353	8.846		
Switzerland	2.3342	2.3258	2.3073	1.4168	1.4128	1.4032	1.6136		
US	1.8475			1.0000			1.1389		

OTHER SPOT RATES					
Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.6475	1.0000	Oman	0.6343	0.3850
Brazil	3.1467	1.9100	Pakistan	84.253	51.140
Chile	13.638	8.2718	Philippines	69.429	38.808
Czech Rep	52.896	32.107	Potomac	5.9887	3.6350
Egypt	5.6293	3.4169	Qatar	5.9961	3.6395
Ghana	23.805	23.805	Russia	375.136	227.040
Hungary	300.41	218.76	South Korea	193.68	117.50
India	70.019	42.500	Taiwan	53.227	32.308
Indonesia	1517.6	921.5	Thailand	50.546	36.750
Nigeria	0.5001	0.3035	Turkey	54.6824	331.790
Kuwait	5.1475	1.0000	UAE	6.0504	3.6775

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES						
Contract		Settlement	High	Low	Est floor interest	Open interest
Long Gilt	Mar-99	120.03	120.25	119.77	274.25	1024.77
5 Yr Gilt	Mar-99	109.81	..	..	..	63.00
German Bund	Mar-99	117.65	..	..	..	115.31
Italian Bond	Mar-99	115.48	115.55	..	10552.00	45771.00
Japan Gov Bd	Mar-99	128.45	128.81	128.30	3533.00	128.30
3 Mth Sterling	Mar-98	94.39	94.42	94.37	232.63	185391.00
3 Mth Euro	Jun-94	94.74	94.75	94.72	214.19	191888.00
3 Mth Euro	Feb-99	96.37	..	..	..	75718.00
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.02	97.02	97.01	213.33	82481.00
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.08	..	..	..	..
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	98.51	98.54	98.54	100.00	90111.00
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	98.61	98.65	98.59	183.91	44843.00
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	98.51	98.54	98.48	519.93	168273.00
3 Mth Euro	Feb-99	96.37	..	..	..	139946.00
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.02	97.02	97.01	344.20	856.00
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.02	..	..	..	168273.00
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.02	..	..	..	139946.00
FTSE 100	Mar-99	5863.00	5971.00	5828.00	2339.98	165699.00

LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION									
Settlement Price: 5872.50									
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. Floor	Open	High	Low	Est. Floor	Open
Long Gilt	Mar-99	120.03	120.25	119.77	274.25	1024.77			
5 Yr Gilt	Mar-99	109.81				63.00			
German Bund	Mar-99	117.65				115.31			
Italian Bond	Mar-99	115.48				4577.11			
Japan Gov Bd	Mar-99	128.45				128.30			
3 Mth Sterling	Mar-99	94.39	94.42	94.37	232.63	185391.00			
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	94.74	94.75	94.72	214.19	191888.00			
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.02	97.02	97.01	213.33	75718.00			
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.08				82481.00			
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	98.51	98.55	98.59	183.91	90111.00			
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	98.51	98.54	98.48	519.93	44843.00			
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.08				168273.00			
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.08				139946.00			
FTSE 100	Mar-99	5863.00	5971.00	5828.00	2339.98	165699.00			

ENERGY									
WTI Crude (\$/barrel) GTS Oil (\$/tonnes)					WTI Crude (\$/barrel) Product Crude (\$/tonnes)				
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. Floor	Open	High	Low	Est. Floor	Open
Mar-99	10.62	10.60	10.59	10.58	10.57	11.01			
Apr-99	10.62	10.60	10.59	10.58	10.57	11.01	-0.01	Nagorno	10.50
May-99	11.06	10.62	10.59	10.58	10.57	12.38	0.00	Gasoline	100.50
Jun-99									
Jul-99									
Aug-99									
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GOLDMAN SACHS COMMODITY INDICES							AT 5:20PM
	BASE DATE	LAST	CHG	%CHG	31 DEC	%CHGTD	
Index	1970=100	134.02	0.84	0.63	215.26	-37.74	
Agricultural	1970=100	177.93	2.33	1.33	231.23	-23.05	
Energy	1983=100	44.19	-0.05	-0.11	85.86	-48.53	
Metals	1970=100	126.04	0.00	0.00	168.79	-25.33	
Livestock	1970=100	158.88	2.76	1.77	191.03	-16.88	
Other Metals	1973=100	377.59	1.13	0.30	463.54	-18.54	

INTEREST RATES									
Country	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	4 year	5 year	10 year
UK	6.00%								
Base									
Discount									
European Central Bank									
ON Margin 50%									
ON Facility 2.00%									
Rpo									
Canada									
Prime									
Denmark									
Discount									
Switzerland									
Discount									
Sweden									
Discount									
Finland									
Discount									

BOND YIELDS									
Country	3 mth	6 mth	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	4 yr	5 yr	10 yr	30 yr
Australia	4.61	-0.07	4.61	-0.05	4.70	-0.08	4.80	-0.07	5.00
Belgium	2.95	-0.01	2.83	-0.01	2.98	0.00	3.39	0.00	3.88
Canada	4.69	0.01	4.84	0.01	4.74	0.01	4.78	0.01	4.91
Euro	3.07	-0.01	3.00	0.00	3.22	0.01	3.22	0.01	3.62
France	3.07	-0.01	2.84	0.00	2.93	0.02	3.18	0.01	3.73
Germany	3.07	-0.01	2.98	-0.01	2.94	0.00	3.11	0.00	3.75
Italy	2.80	0.00	2.84	0.00	2.87	0.00	3.27	-0.01	3

SPORT

Managers and referees must bridge the divide

ARSENE WENGER and Dennis Bergkamp complain that referees are prejudiced against Arsenal. Phil Thompson, Liverpool's assistant manager, runs across the Old Trafford pitch to confront the referee Graham Poll. And Jim Smith tells Sky viewers that Oxford United were cheated by Mike Reed's late penalty decision which handed Chelsea a scarcely deserved FA Cup lifeline.

What does all this tell us, apart from the fact that the drama of the Cup remains as compelling as ever, and that the FA Premier League's code of conduct for managers is obviously gathering dust in the corners of most training ground offices? The code says that managers "should take all reasonable steps to ensure that employees accept and observe the authority and decisions of match officials... and should not make public any unfair criticism of any match official."



Graham Kelly, the former chief executive of the Football Association, believes a lack of communication has been undermining the game's officials

Despite the pre-season briefings every year, there remains a disturbing gulf between the playing side of the game and the referees. The respective organisations - the Football Association, the leagues, the League Managers' Association, the Professional Footballers' Association and the referees' leaders - come together two or three times a season to discuss current trends in the game and to maintain good relations, but the message does not

reach those on the ground. Or at least the managers, and through them the players, rarely heed it. Moreover, with the wealth of live coverage on both television and radio (a service which, I hasten to add, I generally very much welcome), an unhealthy attitude has developed. It is not cool ever to take the side of the referee when commenting or interviewing. Even the mildest suggestion that a referee might actually have got a decision

right is ventured ever so tentatively to the expert summariser. The media men - many of them former players and managers - cosy up to their modern-day counterparts.

Incidentally, it was only in 1982 that apprentices began to sit a test on the laws of the game and even that has lapsed somewhat in recent years with pressures on the time of young players. This explains why many expert pundits do not have a full grasp of the laws.

The climate of scorn was not helped by the removal of Paul Danson from Lincoln City's third-round FA Cup tie against Sunderland after protests that his presence might inflame Sunderland fans, who were unhappy that he had sent off two of their players in a previous match. The fact that the FA replaced him said little for Mr Danson and even less for Sunderland supporters.

The behaviour of some of those people who sit - or stand in front

of - touchline dug-outs is also an important factor here. Six occupants of the benches at the recent Chelsea v Coventry match have been charged with misconduct over a mêlée after Gordon Strachan held on to the ball. With so many more personnel now occupying dug-outs, clearer rules need to be made, because it can become impossible for the referees. The fourth official does not have the specific authority to deal with the bench - he only "assists the referee" - while in the lower divisions he is often a local official without the stature to do so.

What of the referees themselves? Philip Don, the Premier League's referees' officer, says that in more than 90 per cent of matches referees are being given marks of at least seven out of 10 by the independent observers (who are former referees, managers or players). Is that good enough? If our senior referees are to be as con-

sistently accurate as the best referees from other European leagues, then perhaps Mr Don should be aiming for marks of eight or above in all matches.

After Mike Reed's award of a penalty at Oxford, television replays showed both that Kevin Francis played the ball first and that Gianluca Vialli, moving away from goal, jumped high over the tackle. The tackle was side-on, not from behind, and therefore legal. Was that an eight out of 10 decision?

Dermot Gallagher, meanwhile, did little for the reputation of referees with his naïve request for David Ginola's shirt for a charity auction. He should have realised that, at worst, it was placing him under an obligation and, at best, it was an action open to misconstruction.

So what should be done to improve the situation? Firstly, we should put an end to the practice of routinely asking referees to look at

videos to re-examine yellow and red card decisions. What a referee thinks after viewing a video is no longer relevant. The laws of the game provide that the referee's decision is final. Any disciplinary reviews or appeals should be entirely separate and conducted under a different set of procedures, as should any charges laid against players for misconduct which escapes the attention of the match officials.

As for others in the game, I suggest the following. Clubs should be compelled to involve referees in training sessions so as to promote better understanding. Managers should be obliged to attend the seminars referees hold with a view to achieving uniformity. Players (and commentators?) should be required to study the laws of the game. And Arsenal should forget about conspiracy theories and look at the offences for which the red cards were issued.

Elway can confirm his place in history

Denver's legendary quarterback is ready for one more Super Bowl on Sunday. Will it be his last? By Nick Halling in Miami

LIKE THE fighter who does not know when to quit, the aging rock star who refuses to grow old gracefully, or the dowager who clings to the notion that she has Marilyn Monroe looks, John Elway is in danger of outstaying his welcome.

A year ago, the Denver Broncos quarterback fulfilled a lifelong ambition by guiding his team to an upset victory over the Green Bay Packers in Super Bowl XXXII. Amid intense speculation over his future, Elway vanished from sight, surfacing five months later to announce that, after much deliberation, he would play on for one more year, then hang up the shoulderpads.

However, this has been a frustrating season for the old warrior. First a pulled hamstring, then a lower back problem, meant that he missed parts of six games in 1998. During this period of inactivity, there were hints that he might be reconsidering his options. Now, he was "almost certain" that he would go.

Last week, the Broncos defeated the New York Jets to claim their place here alongside the Atlanta Falcons in Sunday's Super Bowl. It was billed as Elway's final game at Denver's impressive Mile High Stadium, a chance for the player to say goodbye to his admirers, and the 75,000 faithful to give their hero the send-off his efforts merited.

At the finish, Elway did his lap of honour, then mounted a podium to tell the fans that he loved them, and they in turn confirmed that they loved him, tears flowing amid the applause. It seemed the end of an era, although the headlines next day were dominated by what Elway had said to reporters in the locker-room. "I'm not going to make any snap judgements," he said of his future. "I'm going to sit down, talk to my wife and kids, see how I feel physically, and go from there."

It is all in sharp contrast to another gridiron legend, Reggie White of the Green Bay Packers. Like Elway, White said after the Super Bowl that he would give it one more year, then retire. When the Packers lost to the San Francisco 49ers in the play-offs earlier this month, White duly walked away from the game he had graced for 13 seasons. Elway, it seems, is reluctant to be the retiring type.

Not surprisingly, the fans want their hero to return. Since joining the team in 1983, Elway has been the Broncos' talisman. The Washington State native enjoys iconic status in Colorado where he, his wife Janet, and their four children have made their home. He is that rare breed of athlete who transcends their chosen sport, becoming synonymous instead with something far greater.

"John Elway is Denver's Moses," his team-mate Shannon Sharpe said. "He has led Denver out of ob-

scurety into the land of milk and money. I don't think there's ever been a guy in the NFL who symbolised his town like John. If you think of Denver, you don't think of siding, you think of John Elway. It's always been John, and even if he retires, it will still always be John."

Elway's career had a less than auspicious beginning. After graduating from Stanford University in 1983, he was drafted by the inept Baltimore Colts, but announced that he would never play for them, electing instead to pursue a promising baseball career.

Traditionalists were disgusted but the Colts had little option other than to trade their reluctant property to Denver. "John Elway will never be any good," predicted the Colts owner, Robert Irsay. He struggled at first, but, tellingly, threw three fourth-quarter touchdowns to help the Broncos beat the Colts 21-16. Elway has rarely failed to silence his critics.

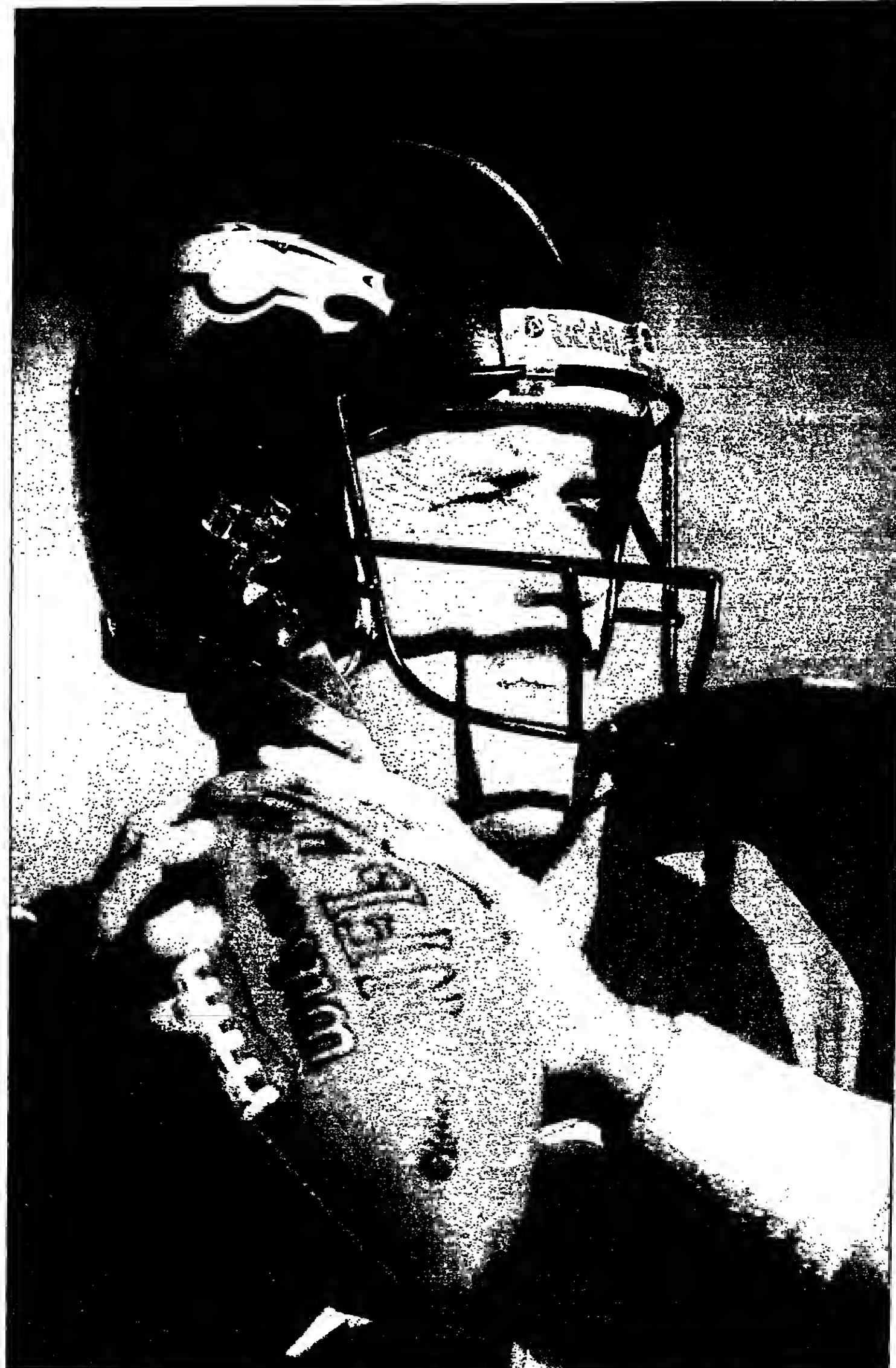
Under his guidance, the Broncos went to three Super Bowls in four years in the late 1980s, only to lose them all by heavy margins. But success last year against the Packers confirmed his greatness and, when he takes the field against Atlanta, he will become the first quarterback to start in five Super Bowls.

These days, he no longer carries the team on his shoulders, as much as before. That burden has fallen to Terrell Davis, the prodigiously gifted running back who, after just four seasons, threatens to rewrite the record books every time he touches the ball.

However, Elway remains the man they turn to in a crisis. In last year's Super Bowl, a tense struggle, he sacrificed his body, scrambling desperately for a first down in an effort to keep a crucial drive alive. His 37-year-old body was forced up in the air and spun through 360 degrees as three Green Bay defenders converged on him, but Elway clung on to the ball, and the Broncos had their first down. Davis did the rest, but Elway had provided the inspiration.

It was the same last week against the Jets. Trailing by 10 points in the third quarter, and with an upset brewing, the Broncos finally prevailed thanks to another prodigious effort from Davis. However, Elway's 47-yard pass to Ed McCaffrey provided the spark that had been missing. From that single play, the game's fortunes were overturned, the Jets simply overwhelmed.

"He may be the greatest to have ever played the game at that position," said the former Kansas City coach Marty Schottenheimer who, as coach of the Cleveland Browns in 1987, watched in disbelief as Elway led the Browns 98 yards in 15 plays with 39 seconds left to level the



John Elway: "This is what I came back for, and I'm thrilled to death to be going back"

game, a contest won in overtime by the Broncos. "It doesn't have anything to do with his arm strength or with the people around him. That guy to me is the greatest competitor I have ever witnessed in sport."

Schottenheimer's appraisal is supported by the statistics. At 6ft 5in and weighing 15 stone, Elway has the classic dimensions for a modern-day quarterback. He has achieved more victories, 164, than any other quarterback in history. He has driven his team to 45 game-saving fourth-quarter drives, six of them in post-season play, with the pressure on. He has rushed for close to 4,000 yards, fourth all-time among

quarterbacks. He has completed 4,123 passes for 51,475 yards, figures bettered only by Dan Marino of the Miami Dolphins. His 300 career touchdown passes are surpassed only by Marino, and Fran Tarkenton, the former Minnesota Viking.

What separates him from the rest, however, is his command of the huddle. "He's a tremendous leader," Denver's offensive co-ordinator, Gary Kubiak, said. "When you're in his huddle, you know you have to do your job and work hard, or he'll run you out of there."

Unlike running backs and receivers, whose efforts can be measured in large part by statistics,

ranking quarterbacks is largely subjective. But Elway clearly belongs in the elite company of Marino, Joe Montana and Otto Graham.

This season has confirmed that while his strength and mobility are greatly diminished, his competitive edge remains sharp, and his decision-making better than ever. Fan polls in Colorado show that the public want him to carry on, although those sentiments are not always echoed within the Broncos' organisation. "He came back this season for another shot at the Super Bowl, and that's where he's going," Shannon Sharpe said. "That should be the ending."

Only Elway knows his future, and as the build-up to Sunday intensifies, he is keeping his own counsel. "I'm not even thinking about that," he said. "I don't want to take the focus off what we're doing, and that's to win the football game. What I'm doing next year, that's not even entering my head. This is what I came back for, and I'm thrilled to death to be going back."

Should the Broncos prevail, as expected, then the temptation to return may prove too great to resist. No team has ever won three Super Bowls in a row. Elway, the ultimate competitor, will relish the challenge.

Tuggle tastes good life at last

By BILL BERKROT

THE AWARD for the happiest man in Miami for Super Bowl XXXIII must go to Jessie Tuggle. For 12 years, the Atlanta Falcons linebacker has been one of the NFL's best kept secrets, spending his entire career with a team that gained so little respect they were hardly noticed even in Atlanta - until this season.

On Sunday, the five-time Pro-Bowl selection finally manages to showcase his talents before a world-wide audience on the game's greatest stage when his Falcons side take on the defending champions, the Denver Broncos.

"This has been such a long time coming for me," he said. "A lot of people say you play for the money but it's not true." Tuggle, the NFL's leading tackler among active players with 1,682, added: "You play for pride, you play for respect and you play to get to the Super Bowl. Everybody wants to make it to the show."

"You got to talk to the young guys because they think 'OK, man, I'm a rookie, hey, it's easy to get to the Super Bowl. This is going to happen, four or five times in my career.' Let me tell you, this don't come around very often." Tuggles knows the truth of that statement - it took the Falcons 33 years to get to the title game for the first time.

"There have been many times when I thought it would never happen. We had so many guys who played for this franchise longer than me, who played 17, 18 years, and they never did make it. It don't come easy," said Tuggle, who has racked up more than 100 tackles for 11 consecutive seasons.

The durable linebacker, who has missed just one game in his entire career, is many things, but a quitter is not one of them. In this era of team-hopping free agency, Tuggle simply refused to give up on the lowly Falcons. "I didn't want to take the easy way out," said the Georgia native, who joined the Falcons as an undrafted free agent in 1987. "To let me jump teams so I can be a winner was never part of my mentality. I wanted to be a part of the solution for the Atlanta Falcons."

Of all the bad times, and there were many, Tuggle cites the 1996 season as rock bottom. Coming off a year in which the Falcons had made the play-offs, Tuggle had reason to believe the club were going in the right direction, only to watch them self-destruct with a dismal 3-13 campaign. Then, though, a new coach with a history of success came to the rescue.

"When they finally got Dan Reeves I knew things would really turn around for us. I just didn't imagine that it would happen this fast," Tuggle said. "This year we made believers out of everybody. This was a magical, special year."

Still, when Tuggle takes a step back to survey all the pre-Super Bowl media circus he cannot quite believe it is actually happening to him. "It all felt like a dream at first when we went to Minnesota and beat the Vikings," Tuggle said of Atlanta's overtime victory in the heart-stopping NFC title game. "You're lying on the floor there and your team-mates are jumping on you and crying, pulling on your jersey and saying 'Can you believe it? We're going to Miami.' All of a sudden, you feel like you're in a dream world."

"All those guys who were there for many years that are retired now, this is for them."

Allsport

Rebellion rouses the Stoke faithful

STOKE CITY fans are revolting. What's more, the man spearheading the rank-and-file rebellion against the Second Division club's ruling elite is an aficionado of heavy metal.

Lester Hughes runs a steel fabrication works little more than a hefty clearance from the Britannia Stadium. At least, he did, until he launched a supporters' consortium aimed at buying out Stoke's majority shareholders. Since then, he admits, the day job has been neglected and he is up until 2am answering letters, faxes and e-mails promising money.

Before tonight's visit of Manchester City - themselves no strangers to restless-native syndrome - Hughes will again be handing out pledge forms. With the campaign in its third week, the running total is on the way to £200,000, a 10th of the target he set to demonstrate the

As the once-proud Potteries club languish in the Second Division, one long-suffering supporter is leading a campaign for change. By Phil Shaw

depth of feeling for Stoke and against the board he holds responsible for "13 years of serious decline".

The response, according to Hughes, has been "overwhelming". At last Saturday's game with Colchester United, he did not have to press his leaflets on anybody, so eagerly were they being seized. Stoke's 300-strong Scandinavian supporters' club expect to generate £50,000. One delivery of post this week brought a £1,000 pledge from a Dutch "Stokie". Another ex-ile, from Somerset, could offer only £5, yet Hughes views both as declarations of the same devotion that drives him on.

Sitting in the shrine to the red and white stripes that doubles as his office, the 52-year-

old former welder explained why he is sparking a challenge to Keith Humphreys and Peter Coates, the Stoke chairman and his predecessor respectively. "The club were in the top division a couple of years before Coates took over. We're now in our second spell in the third grade of English football.

"We've got a Premiership manager (Brian Little) working on a Conference budget. The club don't own the new ground, which was developed by others. They had to borrow to fund their 49 per cent of its cost, and to pay off the debts they've asset-stripped the team. Every decent player has been sold, and only a tiny percentage of the revenue reinvested in the team."

The word Hughes is keen to impress upon possible purchasers - and he has corresponded with Richard Branson, among others - is potential. Having followed the Potters for 40 years, he remembers the second coming of Stanley Matthews, gates of 40,000 under Tony Waddington's genial management, and the team including Alan Hudson which challenged for the League title in the 1970s. Now the "greatness", as he puts it, is gone.

"For the past six years I've tried to put together a consortium of businessmen to buy this pair out. I'm trying again because I'm desperate for the club to succeed. I can't understand why the likes of Fulham, Reading and even Rushden &

Diamonds can attract multi-millionaires. Why can't Stoke, with far greater potential?"

Working on the basis that there is a bedrock of 10,000 diehards (which he maintains could be the tip of the iceberg), Hughes set about trying to raise a minimum of £200 from each. The figure of £2m, less than a tenth of what Mark Goldberg paid for Crystal Palace, is largely symbolic, intended to show would-be buyers what a viable concern Stoke could be.

He is under no illusions that if the target were achieved, season-ticket holders would storm the boardroom like so many replica-shirted Bolsheviks. A realistic role model is the alliance of supporters and the business community which res-

cued Bournemouth from receivership.

"We need enough not only to buy the shares but to take the club forward after Humphreys and Coates have gone," he said. "To buy the club, invest in the team and pay off the debts, we could be looking at a minimum of £10m."

"I've always said that the business people who come in will be the ones who run the club, though I'd want supporter representation on the board. But first we've got to show these two their time's up. Humphreys went on the radio in response to me, saying they would talk to anyone who wanted to invest in Stoke. We don't want that: we want people to purchase their shares so they can put money in when they've gone."

In the meantime, Hughes will keep putting his heart and



Hughes: Raising funds

cash into the struggle for Stoke's soul. "I know I'm being unfair to my family and my shareholders. But my passion for this club is so great that I get carried away. I'd pay any price to put Stoke back on the road to success."

"A few people reckon I'm just on an ego trip. It's said that they're so negative. This is positive," Hughes added, "and Brian Little will tell you it's not hurting the football. It's got nothing to do with my wanting to be chairman, or even a director. I've got enough on my plate without that!"

"I just want to appeal to anyone out there to let me show them the massive potential of Stoke City. All it needs is investment."

"We might fail, but if we didn't try it would be defeatism - and we've had years of that already."

Stoke City Supporters Consortium can be contacted in four different ways. By phone: 01782 393557; by fax: 01782 746009; by post: S&H Ltd, Unit 15, Hyde Park, City Road, Stoke on Trent ST4 1DE; or by e-mail: lhu7751207@aol.com

Winchester rediscovers his touch

ROGER WINCHESTER, whose career took such a nose-dive that he was forced to sell his home and was on the verge of giving up the game, continued to pick himself up off the floor yesterday.

Delighted just to be back on the European Tour he left in 1993 due to a lack of success, the 31-year-old from Devon was even happier after starting the Heineken Classic at The Vines here with a seven-under par 65. He goes into the second round level with the world No 5, Ernie Els, and only one behind the leader, Jarmo Sandelin of Sweden.

Winchester made his move with five successive birdies around the turn and then closed with another. Comparisons between him and Nick Faldo were inevitably made in 1985 when he won the English amateur title at the age of 18 - a decade after Faldo had done the same - and he took them a stage further.

"I tried to model myself on Faldo," he said. "David Leadbetter became my coach when I was at college in Florida and I used to play with Nick a bit. But I completely lost my way. I got far too technical and there were times when I wanted to give up because I was so confused with what I was doing."

"It was terrible financially too - it still is. I had a house in Wimbledon that I had to sell because I couldn't afford the mortgage and right now I'm renting a room in a house in London for £40 a week."

"It's difficult to break even on the Challenge Tour and it was a huge relief to finish fourth on that last year and so give myself another chance on the main Tour."

Winchester has been helped by a renowned American sports psychologist, Bob Rotella, whom he wrote to in despera-

GOLF

By MARK GARROD
in Perth

tion. "I've learnt that everybody is different. I mean, you don't see Woosie trying to play like Faldo, do you? He's got his own personality."

"As long as I can keep doing the same thing day in, day out hopefully things will keep improving for me."

Sandelin missed Padraig Harrington's Vines course record by just one shot. Sandelin grabbed no fewer than nine birdies in a round he rated one of the best of his life.

However, Els is an even firmer favourite for the first prize of £108,000 after collecting seven birdies himself. The winner of the South African PGA championship two weeks ago, Els is keen to keep pace with 59-shooter David Duval - a double champion on the US Tour already.

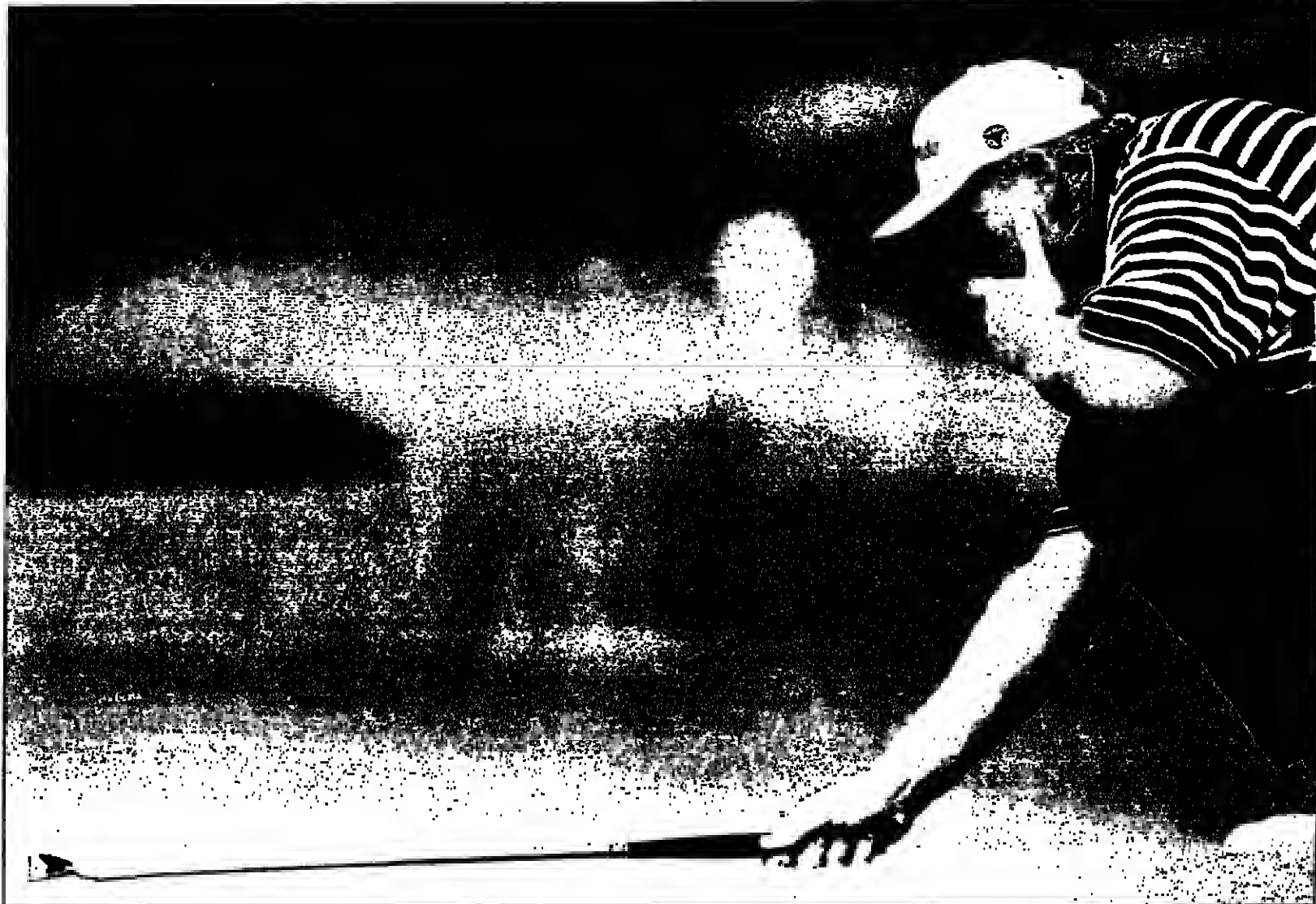
Scotland's Andrew Coltart opened with a 66 for a share of fourth place as he began his bid for a third success Down Under, having won the Australian PGA title in Sydney in 1994 and 1997.

This event counts for the Ryder Cup qualifying table and another win would probably get the 28-year-old into the 64-man field for the Andersen Consulting World Match Play Championship in California next month.

Currently seventh in the Ryder Cup table and 74th in the world rankings, Coltart matched Els by not dropping a stroke and scored six birdies in his last 12 holes.

Sam Torrance is 14 shots off the lead after requiring painkillers for the shoulder injury which forced him to drop out of last week's South African Open.

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Ernie Els lines up a putt at the 16th on the way to his first-round total of 65 at the Heineken Classic in Perth yesterday

Allsport

Monty expects tough Ryder Cup

By ANDY FARRELL

AMERICA'S DISMAL performance in the Presidents Cup - when they were comprehensively thrashed by the likes of Ernie Els, Nick Price and Greg Norman, not forgetting Shigeaki Maruyama of Japan, playing under the collective banner of an international team - does not guarantee Europe victory in this September's Ryder Cup, according to Colin Montgomerie.

The man who has led the Order of Merit for the last six years and secured the victory at Valderrama in the last Ryder Cup 18 months ago, is not expecting a walkover at the Country Club of Brookline despite the one-sided nature of the match at Royal Melbourne last month.

"I think it is going to be competitive," Montgomerie said. "It was an amazing result in Melbourne. I felt the Americans were going to win but it was at the end of a long season. Their world ranking form is not coming through in team-oriented events just now but I think that is coincidence more than anything else. Come the Ryder Cup, it'll be different again and a very tight struggle."

Montgomerie first faces the Americans on home soil in the head-to-head version of the game at La Costa, near San Diego, in next month's Andersen Consulting World Match Play Championship.

The Scot is nominally the defending champion, but the event has evolved to become one of three new tournaments which are meant to be next to the majors in importance. Montgomerie sees them as a chance to boost his world ranking from ninth and challenge the No 1, Tiger Woods, as well as David Duval, who shot a 59 last Sunday to win his second successive event. "There are no excuses now," he said. "We are playing on a level playing field now."

Monty will do so without his mentor, Bill Ferguson, who rescued the Scot from a mid-season slump but has been jettisoned for the second time. Denying the move was motivated by money, as had been reported, Montgomerie said: "I

am happy with what I am doing. "Bill and I remain close friends, and have spoken since and will again. I feel I can go it alone for a while but that does not mean forever. The door is not closed. I am looking to see who can help me on certain aspects of the game. I already work with Dave Pelz on my chipping and putting, and that is a key thing as regards scoring."

Gary Player's intention to make the 2001 Open at Royal Lytham his 46th and last appearance in the championship will rest on the Royal and Ancient changing their exemption rules, as they did for Arnold Palmer in 1995. The R&A altered the age limit on past champions from "under-65" to

"65 and under" just to let Palmer bow out at St Andrews four years ago. But the rule was immediately changed back again and did not become permanent as Player, who won the third of his Open titles at Lytham in 1974, hoped. "Maybe Gary is hoping we will change the rule again," David Hill, secretary of the championship committee, said. "And maybe we will."

Jack Nicklaus will be out for three months after a hip replacement operation, thus breaking his record of 40 consecutive appearances in the US Masters. Nicklaus, the winner of six Masters titles, had been suffering from a degenerative problem in his left hip.

Hubbick's assistant is Gary Barker, who captained the 1989 Sudbury Town side. Three other Priory team-mates then were Dean Garnham, who now keeps goal for Woodbridge, plus Marty Thorpe and Craig Oldfield, who are both squad players at Notcutts Park. They all share the same dream - marking the 10th anniversary of their first Wembley visit with a return trip.

There will be a reunion prior to the Vase tie at Dunston Federation Brewery tomorrow. The Tyne-side club's manager, Bobby Scallie, appeared in the same Middlesbrough youth and reserve teams as David Armstrong, who went on to play for England and is now the commercial manager of Lymington & New Milton, Dunston's opponents from Hampshire.

Two clubs known as the Motormen have reached the last 16 of the Vase. Vauxhall GB, from Ellesmere Port, travel to Oxfordshire to take on Thame United, while Ford United, from Romford, entertain Bedlington Terriers. Both sides reached the first round of the FA Cup this term: Ford lost at Preston North End while Bedlington thrashed Colchester United.

The Vase holders, Tiverton Town, visit Bedford Town, while Taunton Town, along with "Tivvy" the other West Country Vase contenders, entertain Northwood.

England aim for the title

NOTHING SHORT of the gold medal should satisfy England in Prague this weekend in the Women's Under-21 European Indoor Championship. With Germany, Spain and the Dutch not contesting the event, England, who in the previous three competitions have second, third and fourth, must start as favourites to reach Sunday's final, where they would expect to meet the host nation.

It is, however, worrying that France, who finished in bottom place in 1997, beat England, playing as Manchester, 6-3 in the World Cities Tournament in Perth last weekend. The French will provide the opposition for England's second game this afternoon. England play Slovakia this morning in their opening game and complete the pool programme tomorrow morning against Belarus.

England will rely heavily on the captain, Clifton's Lisa Wooding, to lead by example along with their three full internationals: Isabel Palmer, Helen Richardson and Kate Walsh.

England aim for the title

England aim for the title

England aim for the title

Warren wants apology from Hamed

FRANK WARREN has demanded an apology from Naseem Hamed for saying he had been "exploited and manipulated" by the promoter on Michael Parkinson's BBC1 chat show. Warren's solicitors have written to Hamed, the BBC and Parkinson insisting on an apology from all three.

When Parkinson asked Hamed during last Friday's show if he thought he had been manipulated and exploited, the World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion replied: "Definitely. I did. Yes."

Warren said yesterday: "I want an apology from Parkinson,

BOXING

the BBC and Hamed. I won't let him [Hamed] off the hook."

During the interview Parkinson said to Hamed: "You're being looked after by your brother and all the rest of your family. Does that make you feel more secure?"

Hamed replied: "Definitely. I know exactly what's coming in and what's going out and obviously my family is blood and I know that I can trust them with everything. For once in my life I can control my own destiny and what I want to do and what I want to achieve." Hamed, who

officially parted company with Warren last week, was steered to the world title by Warren in September 1995.

"He [Hamed] has earned about £12m from boxing and his commercial activities, selling him to the youth market and the success was down to us," Warren said. "Greed has destroyed our relationship. We began in 1994 and I doubled his wages. He earned just over £500,000 the following year and when we signed a new contract in 1996 I stepped his money up again. So I cannot say how disappointed I was with the Parkinson show."

"The rift began when Riath,

Hamed's brother, became involved. Riath had no impact before Naz became world champion. Naz was then getting 10 to 12 times the money other top featherweights were getting. I should know because I was doing the deals."

Riath, also Hamed's business manager, said: "We don't want to be dragged into any sort of press war with Frank Warren. He was very helpful and we are grateful for that. The situation is that we want our independence and both parties have got separate ways to go."

The relationship with Warren ended after the unbeaten

Hamed had made his 11th successful title defence against Wayne McCullough in Atlantic City last October. That was his 31st victory, 22 of them under Warren's promotion.

Hamed will be promoted by Barry Hearn, with whom he started his career in 1992, when he makes his next title defence against his fellow Yorkshireman Paul Ingle in Manchester on 10 April.

A spokesperson for the Parkinson programme said: "We can confirm we have received a letter from Frank Warren and it is now in the hands of the lawyers."

Box office proves Tyson's drawing power

THOUGH HE is clearly no longer the fighter of old, Mike Tyson is still proving a knock-out at the box office. Figures released by the Nevada Athletic Commission showed Tyson's comeback fight against the South African Francois Botha to be the sixth biggest attendance in the state's history.

The Commission said 10,221 people paid full ticket prices to watch the fight at the MGM

Grand hotel-casino. The fight grossed \$7,051,800 (£4.3m) at the gate, dashing predictions by many before the bout that ticket sales would be poor.

The attendance trailed only four other Tyson fights and the first Oscar De La Hoya-Julio Cesar Chavez bout for gate money. The biggest grossing fight in Nevada history was Tyson's infamous hitting of Evander Holyfield, which generated \$14,277,200. "When you compare him to anybody else it's unbelievable," Marc Ratner, the commission's executive director, said.

Tyson's ability to draw fans to his fifth-round knockout of Botha was even more impressive because the bout on 18 January was sandwiched between two big Las Vegas weekends and the fight promotion was hastily put together. An-

other 750,000 people paid an average of \$45 to buy the pay-per-view of the fight on television.

With a ticket tax of four per cent and a television tax of \$50,000, Nevada earned about \$330,000 in taxes. "There's not a promoter or a fighter in the world that wouldn't love to have those type of numbers," Dan Goossen, the promoter, said.

Still, the crowd in an arena that seats about 15,000 was far

above what some writers had predicted when only a few thousand seats were sold the week before the fight. The announced attendance was 12,519, with the remainder getting in on reduced or complimentary tickets.

"The reports just weren't accurate leading up to the fight," Goossen said. "I'm not pointing fingers at the media, but they end up looking at the glass half empty rather than half full."

Mauresmo mesmerises Davenport

THE UNSEEN Frenchwoman Amelie Mauresmo staged a stunning Australian Open fight-back yesterday to overcome the world No 1 and top seed, Lindsay Davenport, 4-6, 7-5, 7-3. In her first Grand Slam final tomorrow she will meet the defending champion, Martina Hingis, who disposed of Monica Seles 6-2, 6-4 to end an unbeaten run of 33 matches Down Under for the fourth time Australian Open champion.

"I'm very happy. I didn't expect it at the beginning of the tournament," a delighted Mauresmo said.

"I think I'll just play the final first and think about it later," the 19-year-old added when asked if her giant-killing performance had sunk in yet.

The equally unassuming Nicolas Pietrangeli was unable to emulate Mauresmo in the star-studded men's singles, going down to the 10th seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia - the only seed left in the men's singles - and Tommy Haas, the 20-year-old German.

But none could match Mauresmo's dramatic path to the final. The strongly built teenager fought off two match points in an opening round match with the American Corina Morariu last week. The world No 29 then beat the eighth seed, Patty Schnyder of Switzerland, in the second round and topped the Belgian 11th seed, Dominique Van Roost, in the quarter-finals.

Mauresmo had never before made it past the third round of a Grand Slam, but the 1996 world junior champion had beaten Davenport when

TENNIS
By DERICK WHYTE
in Melbourne

they first met at the German Open last May. Davenport began confidently before Mauresmo battered the American with service winners and swarmed over her with brutal groundstrokes.

"A couple of times I thought I was playing a guy, she was hitting the ball so hard," Davenport said. The pair slugged it out through the second set



Davenport: Overpowered

until Mauresmo gained a crucial advantage when she broke Davenport's serve to love in the 12th game. Five service breaks were traded in an enthralling third set before the French teenager broke again for the match, sinking to her knees in joy after drilling a backhand passing shot down the line.

Davenport, the US Open champion, had not lost a set before the semi-finals and looked on course for her first Australian Open final when she held three break points in the third game of the final set. But Mauresmo saved those and rallied as her powerful serve began to find its

mark. Surprisingly, it was Davenport who slowly wilted.

"I couldn't touch her serve at the end," Davenport said. "Every time I got my foot through the door and I thought I was going to get to the end, the door was shut on my foot."

Hingis, the world No 2, was also too strong for Seles, but relied more on deft placement and timing than raw power. The Swiss teenager slammed a forehand winner past Seles on her second match point after 59 relatively trouble-free minutes.

The point also ended Seles's remarkable winning streak in Melbourne at 33 matches. Seles won the title in her only four previous Open appearances from 1991 to 1993 and again in 1994.

Hingis shut Seles out of the match, breaking the Yugoslav-born American early in the first set and then using her superior court coverage to gain another important break in the seventh game of the second set.

She said she was glad not to play Davenport in the final and felt Mauresmo might be over-awed by the occasion. "Mentally it's easier to be the favourite," Hingis, at 18 a year younger than her opponent, said. "This is her first time in the final. It will be hard for her."

Enqvist dominated his match against a tired Pietrangeli with a powerful service game and a varied array of groundstrokes. Enqvist, the world No 21, won Open warm-up events in Adelaide and Melbourne and was jubilant after his 102-minute demolition of unseeded five-set specialist Pietrangeli.

"I almost feel I want to go out and play it now," Enqvist said of the final. "It's very exciting."

The unheralded Pietrangeli upset the seventh-seeded Karol Kucera in a five-set thriller in the quarter-finals, but paid for an exhausting run through the draw, which included 24 sets in his first five matches.



Thomas Enqvist powers his way to his first Grand Slam final yesterday

Clive Brunskill/Allsport

Bingham battles to last eight

SNOOKER

STUART BINGHAM pulled off a remarkable 5-4 win over the world champion and world No 1, John Higgins, in the Welsh Open yesterday. The 22-year-old from Essex is the lowest-ranked professional left in the £370,000 tournament at the Cardiff International Arena - but he more than made up for the discrepancy in the rankings and his lack of experience to reach the quarter-finals.

"I can't believe it, but I enjoy proving people wrong," the 1996 world amateur champion said. "You never know how far I can go." Bingham, a first-round winner over Tony Drago and a re-spotted black ball winner against Gerard Greene in the second round, added: "I started off like a house on fire but when John started to come back at me I got a bit worried."

"I've lost matches before when I shouldn't have done so I was delighted when he finally shook my hand."

Bingham, the world No 164, quickly built up a 3-0 lead but Higgins showed his mettle by drawing level at 3-3.

Bingham won frame seven with a run of 43 but easily lost the eighth. In the deciding by the time they reached the colours, Higgins needed snookers. "I had a wee chance to win the deciding but missed a terrible black," Higgins said. "But all credit to Stuart, he played well."

Bingham now meets Peter Ebdon or Joe Swail for a place in the semi-finals.

Higgins' defeat was not quite as surprising as Stephen Hendry's 9-0 demise in the UK Championship last November. The Scot is slowly recovering from that humiliation by Marcus Campbell - his 5-4 victory yesterday over Matthew Stevens of Wales will fill him with confidence, recovering as he did from 4-3 down.

Steve Davis, at 41 the oldest competitor left in the field, beat Fergal O'Brien 5-0, while Thailand's James Wattana reached his first ranking tournament quarter-final for over two years by beating Northern Ireland's Patrick Wallace 5-2.

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SPORTING DIGEST

BASKETBALL

Shareef Abdur-Rahim, 22, has signed a \$1.2m (£750,000) contract with the Vancouver Grizzlies, the maximum allowable under the newly negotiated collective bargaining agreement.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Badminton League: Greater London League: 76 Edinburgh Road 73, The Bells Trophy: Greater London: Birmingham 72 Manchester City 56; Derby Storm 129 Newcastle Eagles 102; London Towers 61 Leicester Riders 62; Sheffield Sharks 62 Chester Jets 75.

CRICKET

SOUTH AFRICA SQUAD (over of New Zealand, February, March): W J Cronje, R Kapp, S M Pollock, W J van der Merwe, N N Gibbs, O J Culham, J N Kallis, J N Steyn, M V Boucher, A Krummer, A J Donald, O J Trott, P L Adams, N Bole, O B Benkenstein, P L Symcox, W Mouton.

FOOTBALL

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Football League: Premier Division: 1. Manchester United 2 Arsenal, 2. Liverpool 1, 3. Chelsea 1, 4. Tottenham Hotspur 1, 5. Newcastle United 1, 6. Blackburn Rovers 1, 7. Manchester City 1, 8. Aston Villa 1, 9. Middlesbrough 1, 10. Leeds United 1, 11. Sheffield Wednesday 1, 12. Derby County 1, 13. Nottingham Forest 1, 14. Birmingham City 1, 15. Southampton 1, 16. West Ham United 1, 17. Luton Town 1, 18. Watford 1, 19. Preston North End 1, 20. Millwall 1, 21. Charlton Athletic 1, 22. Reading 1, 23. Sheffield United 1, 24. Notts County 1, 25. Barnsley 1, 26. Huddersfield Town 1, 27. Blackpool 1, 28. Wigan Athletic 1, 29. Scunthorpe United 1, 30. Peterborough United 1, 31. Shrewsbury Town 1, 32. Exeter City 1, 33. Torquay United 1, 34. Dagenham & Redbridge 1, 35. Southend United 1, 36. Grimsby Town 1, 37. Hartlepool United 1, 38. Lincoln City 1, 39. Mansfield Town 1, 40. Doncaster Rovers 1, 41. Rochdale 1, 42. Stockport County 1, 43. Crewe Alexandra 1, 44. Nantwich Town 1, 45. Altrincham 1, 46. Warrington Town 1, 47. Widnes 1, 48. Runcorn 1, 49. Wrexham 1, 50. Connah's Quay 1, 51. Flint Town 1, 52. Holyhead Town 1, 53. Llangefyllen 1, 54. Rhyl 1, 55. Bangor City 1, 56. Colwyn Bay 1, 57. Glyn Ceirion 1, 58. Llanfair United 1, 59. Llanidloes 1, 60. Llanrwst 1, 61. Llantrisant 1, 62. Llanwrthwl 1, 63. Llanwrtyd 1, 64. Llanwrtyd 1, 65. Llanwrtyd 1, 66. Llanwrtyd 1, 67. Llanwrtyd 1, 68. Llanwrtyd 1, 69. Llanwrtyd 1, 70. Llanwrtyd 1, 71. Llanwrtyd 1, 72. Llanwrtyd 1, 73. Llanwrtyd 1, 74. Llanwrtyd 1, 75. Llanwrtyd 1, 76. Llanwrtyd 1, 77. Llanwrtyd 1, 78. Llanwrtyd 1, 79. Llanwrtyd 1, 80. Llanwrtyd 1, 81. Llanwrtyd 1, 82. Llanwrtyd 1, 83. Llanwrtyd 1, 84. Llanwrtyd 1, 85. Llanwrtyd 1, 86. Llanwrtyd 1, 87. Llanwrtyd 1, 88. Llanwrtyd 1, 89. Llanwrtyd 1, 90. Llanwrtyd 1, 91. Llanwrtyd 1, 92. Llanwrtyd 1, 93. Llanwrtyd 1, 94. Llanwrtyd 1, 95. Llanwrtyd 1, 96. Llanwrtyd 1, 97. Llanwrtyd 1, 98. Llanwrtyd 1, 99. Llanwrtyd 1, 100. Llanwrtyd 1, 101. 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SPORT

WINCHESTER FIRES 65 P28 • ELWAY'S DATE WITH DESTINY P24

Ranatunga let off with light penalty

WHATEVER OTHER characteristics prevail in the event before and after what might be known as the Adelaide Call, dignity has not been among them. Last night, the match referee, Peter van der Merwe, the man who has had to deal with the morass and was in danger of being swallowed up by it, exhibited the quality in abundance while being forced to let Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lankan captain, more or less get away with it.

He denounced the involvement of lawyers in imposing the discipline of the game and reserved his most telling comments for Ranatunga himself. As the humility of Van der Merwe's tone and the weariness in his announcement made clear, the game is the poorer for what has happened this week. Swift remedial action is demanded but this has rarely been the International Cricket Council's forte. They may not know where to start.

After a hearing of some four hours at the Waca ground in Perth, most of it taken up by lawyers, Van der Merwe somberly announced the verdict and the relatively light sentence on Ranatunga for his unworthy behaviour in his side's Carlton & United Series match against England last Saturday after the off-spinner, Muttiah Muralitharan, was sensationally no balled for throwing.

Ranatunga was fined 75 per cent of his match fee, the maximum possible, and banned for six matches, also the maximum, but the suspension has been suspended for 12 months. The amount of cash is not known since Sri Lanka have a scale of sliding match fees.

If he is found guilty of any other breach of the ICC's code of conduct in that time, he will have the ban imposed as well as any other sanction for the new offence. Or not, naturally, if he hires a decent legal team. Considering the nature of Ranatunga's crimes - wagging his finger at the umpire, jabbing him in the chest, delaying the match for 15 minutes, telling the umpire where he should stand - it was

CRICKET

BY STEPHEN BRECKLEY in Perth

tantamount to saying that players can do what they like.

Ranatunga, charged with five breaches of the ICC code, was found guilty of the first (nothing was said about the others) in that he did not at all times maintain the spirit of the game besides the laws of the game.

"It has appeared in the Press recently that the code of conduct has been or was drawn up by cricketers for cricketers to be administered by cricketers," Van der Merwe said. "That statement is a very true one. However, in this instance, it was a great disappointment and a very



Ranatunga: Suspended ban

complicated matter to find that legal people were largely prominent in this hearing.

There were five lawyers present, three in the Sri Lankan corner, two in the ICC's, Alec Stewart, the England captain, and Graeme Hick were there to give evidence for England. Sanath Jayasuriya and Muralitharan were speaking from the Sri Lankan side and both umpires, Ross Emerson and Tony McQuillan, appeared. Van der Merwe arrived seven minutes late carrying a copy of Cricket Umpiring and Scoring but, more importantly, he was accompanied by one of his legal team.

"I have no doubt that the ICC will take note of this hearing and

the way it has been conducted and that this green covered book [Code of Conduct] will find a lot of amendments in the next edition," Van der Merwe said.

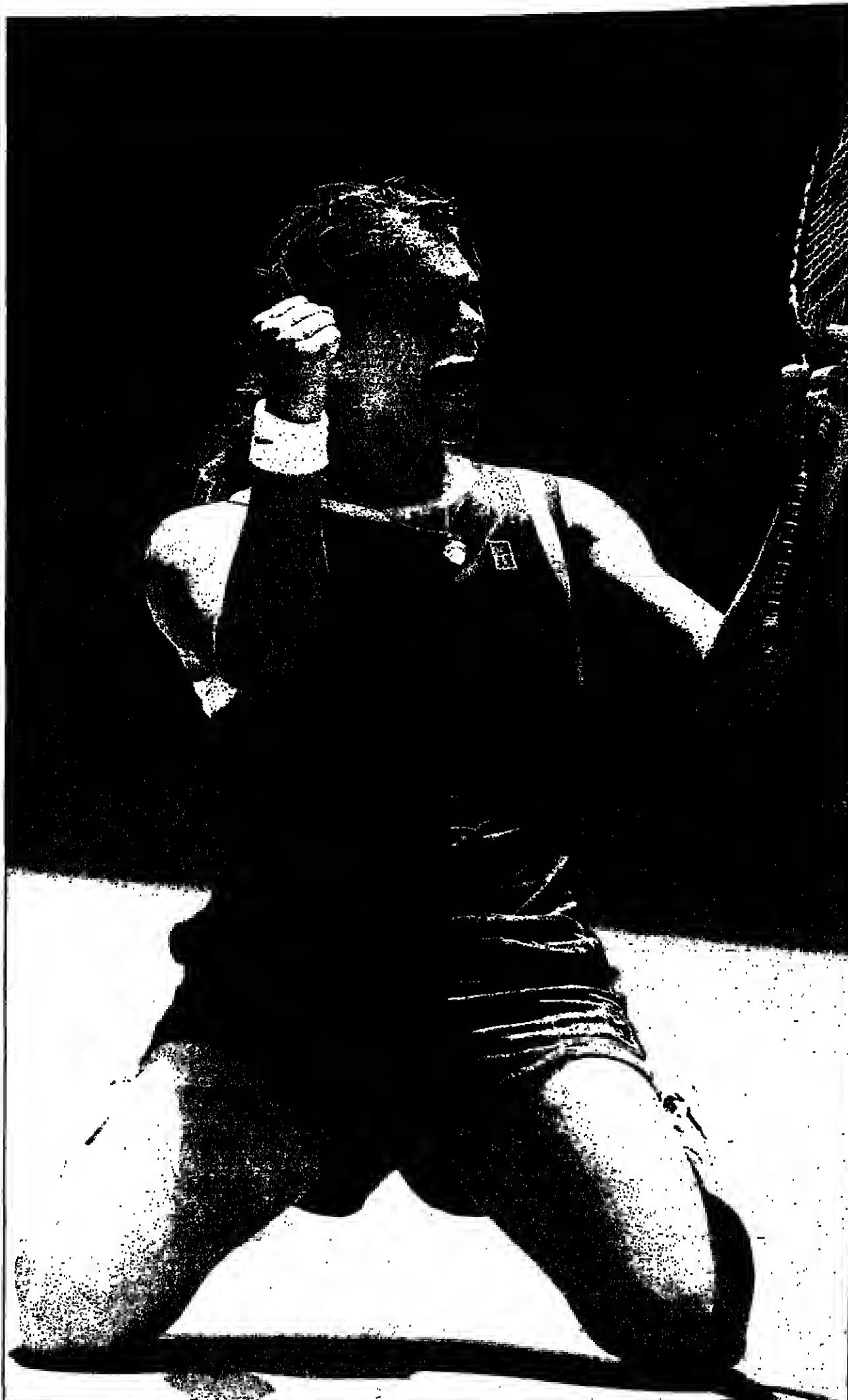
Offences do not come much more bang to rights than Ranatunga's. They were all captured on film in a match which descended into downright ugliness after Muralitharan was called by Emerson. Ranatunga was involved in the aftermath but, as the match grew closer later, tensions erupted. Players pushed and shoved each other and both sides were culpable.

Perhaps Van der Merwe made it difficult for himself by charging only Ranatunga when he could have collared three or four others including Stewart, who walked into Upul Chandana with his shoulder. That outraged the Sri Lankans, who were already feeling wronged. They called in the lawyers. When they heard that Emerson had been absent from his job with a stress-related condition and was withdrawn by the Australian Cricket Board from standing in further matches in the Triangular one-day series, they probably hired another one.

Van der Merwe, at first perplexed by this, postponed the hearing for 24 hours and then had to adjourn it the following day after "certain legal representations". This was the third go at administering justice. He said: "Mr Ranatunga expressed regret at the embarrassment he had caused his opponents, the public and the officials and he has been warned that his every action will be very, very closely monitored over the next 12 months."

Van der Merwe reserved his most incisive comments for the Sri Lankan and, if the captain cares about the game as much as he appears to, they will weigh on him heavily. "I would like to say that the unfortunate happening has cost Mr Ranatunga a great deal in the popularity stakes and respect is something, I told him, that both he and I will lose by this decision." At last, dignity.

More cricket, page 27



The unseeded Amelie Mauresmo celebrates after causing one of the great shocks in Australian Open history by beating the world No 1, Lindsay Davenport, to reach the women's final Report, page 29; Photograph: AFP

Judge to make Korda ruling

TENNIS

BY OSSIAN SHINE

PETR KORDA will find out today whether he has successfully prevented the International Tennis Federation from attempting to have him suspended following a positive drugs test at Wimbledon last year.

Mr Justice Lightman, presiding at London's High Court, indicated he would reserve his judgment overnight and give his decision this afternoon.

The Czech player believes his lawyers can prove the ITF does not have the right to challenge a decision by its own appeals board. But the ITF is arguing the board misapplied anti-doping regulations in docking Korda only the points and prize money earned at Wimbledon when they punished him in December after testing positive for the banned steroid nandrolone. It wants to appeal to the independent Court of Arbitration for Sport.

However, Charles Flint, the barrister representing Korda, told the hearing that the appeals board's decision had been "final and binding." The ITF claims a decision can only be regarded as final if it is not appealed, but Flint said that argument was inconsistent with the rules.

"The programme is designed to provide for speedy and final determination of disputes as to allegations of doping before an independent committee," he said. "We say that a player should not be required to defend himself twice."

The ITF is unhappy with what they see as a lenient punishment. Robert Reid, the barrister for the ITF, said: "Tennis players are responsible for any substance found in their bodies. The appeals committee should have imposed a suspension."

Reid added that the player himself would have appealed to CAS if the original decision had not been to his liking. "Korda had embarked upon the appeal procedure and, indeed, his solicitors were envisaging that in the event of an adverse decision he would have appealed to the CAS."

Korda's case is a rarity in tennis which has had just a handful of positive drug tests. None has involved a leading player and most were recreational rather than performance-enhancing substances.

Sherwood in talks with Spurs

FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NIXON AND NICK HARRIS

TIM SHERWOOD, the Blackburn captain, held transfer talks in London yesterday with the Tottenham Hotspur manager, George Graham, and then said he would ideally like to stay with Rovers.

It is understood that Graham offered Sherwood a salary increase to move to the capital, but Sherwood would prefer to stay at Ewood Park if he can negotiate a rise in pay to around £1m per season. The player has already rejected one improved contract offer from his club.

Sherwood, who turns 30 on Tuesday and has three-and-a-half years to run on his current deal, is unhappy with how his club has handled contract negotiations. "I'm very disappointed that we have been unable to agree terms," he said.

"From the start of the negotiations, which I consider

have dragged on for too long, I've come a lot closer to Blackburn's figure than the club have to mine. I have been negotiating a new deal, but I let the manager know I don't want to leave the club."

Graham has said he wants to make "lots of new signings" for Spurs, but whether Sherwood will be one of them will depend on whether Rovers decide they will increase his salary to keep him. The strength of Sherwood's hand in negotiations may be weakened by the fact that Rovers yesterday completed the £1m signing of Jason McAteer from Liverpool and the newcomer could come in as a direct replacement for the club

captain. Rovers manager, Brian Kidd, also said yesterday that the club has a ceiling on pay put in place by the owner Jack Walker, that cannot be broken.

"We've got a firm pay scale here and we work to that," Kidd said. "It's worked out well so far. When you're spending money it's quite right that Mr Walker asks questions."

"When I bring players in you will ask me my reasons and then when we negotiate the club has its own rules. What pleased me with Jason is that he just wanted to talk football. He wants to play and that said a lot to me."

"Matt Jansen and Keith Gillespie also wanted to come here. They could both have earned more money hanging on. In Keith's case he was a free agent in another six months."

"It's a balance. The club have also got to be fair to players as

well. In the dealings I've had they have been like that. But the bottom line is whether the players want to come here to play."

Sherwood has been asking for more than Walker's limit, according to club sources, while the player feels the pay limit is not as rigid as has been pronounced. The impasse is likely to be extended, as there is also said to be interest in Sherwood's services from Wrexham and Aston Villa.

Another player who might be a Villa employee soon, according to his agent, is Juninho. Gianni Paladini said he is "90 per cent certain" that a £10m deal will go through some time in the next week.

Manchester United's Alex Ferguson admitted yesterday he will not be able to strengthen his Champions' League squad before Sunday's UEFA

deadline. "It's a limited field that you are in, because so many players are cup-tied. We will not be signing anyone," he said.

Mick Wadsworth has resigned as the manager of Scarborough to take over at the Second Division strugglers Colchester United in succession to Steve Wignall, who quit last week. Ray McHale, previously the assistant manager, and Derek Mountfield take caretaker charge at Scarborough.

The Office of Fair Trading said last night it was investigating alleged moves made by the Premier League to head off a threatened breakaway by its leading clubs. The OFT will investigate whether illegal threats were made by the League to its clubs - including Arsenal and Manchester, both involved in super league talks in the summer - to stop a breakaway.

Players' unions are lobbying FIFA to bring in an annual four-week break from football across the globe. The international federation of players' unions is applying pressure amid fears that some footballers are playing too many matches.

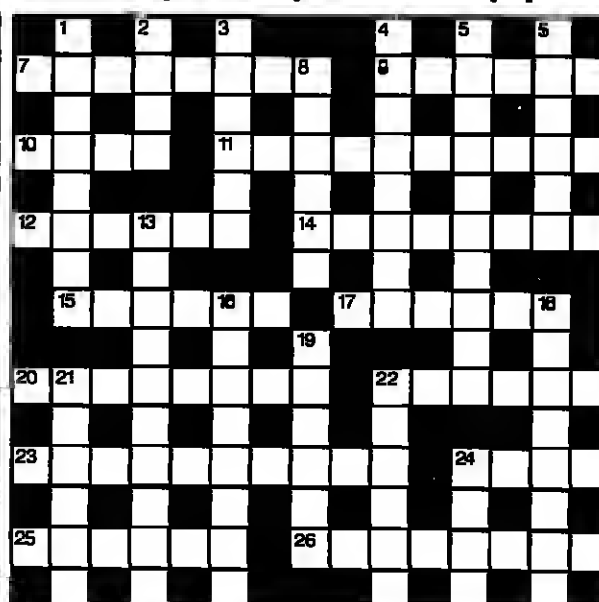
Sunderland attracted a crowd of 33,517 to the Stadium of Light for Wednesday's Football League match against Liverpool reserves. Fans were admitted free but over £7,000 was raised.

THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3832 Friday 29 January

by Spurius

Thursday's solution



CLUSTEN LASAGNE
REPEL RIPENDANT
BE O C S T I E
INTENSIVE HORSE
L U S E
SCOFF SCRATCHES
U R U S E
DYSPEPSIA CRAMP
R E A R U
EXTOL SOLICITOR
A A A W I L E T
B E M A N D I N G O V E R T
E I C S H I S A
O L I V E R S T R E A S O N

ACROSS
7 Like dirty carpets Victor described? (8)
9 Usual sort of conquest mostly associated with onset of love (6)
10 Plans to bring back luncheon meat (4)
11 Place to go, maybe, when one's surrounded, on the defensive (10)
12 County associating itself with appeal for accommodation (6)
14 He used to run on the football field (8)
15 Little time in town to obtain beagles (6)
17 Set which incorporates a splendid house (6)
20 Medicine given girl, one held by mother (8)
22 Party over, time to fit in

DOWN
1 Worker holding article found in monkey's foot (8)
2 Left out state paper (4)
3 Narrow interpretation of artist? (6)
4 Problem predicted for Macbeth, none of the rest (8)
5 Grass initially rough in

gardens we cultivated (10)
6 Girl in a film (6)
8 Nincompoop able to give us no line in poem (8)
13 Film in which psychiatrist's on a criminal charge involving women (6-4)
16 So trade's somewhat patchy, varied? (8)
18 Catch fish after net's mended (8)
19 Express disapproval about American bishop giving cane (6)
21 Blind never opens in one section of house (6)
22 Letters from lover don't exaggerate (6)
24 Primarily someone working on books? (4)

Diawara joins Arsenal's French contingent

ARSENAL ARE confident of completing the signing of the Bordeaux striker Kaba Diawara today. Arsène Wenger has decided to add to his French foreign legion at High-bury amid uncertainty over when Nwankwo Kanu will be given the go-ahead to start his Gunners career.

The Arsenal manager signed Kanu for £3m from Internazionale two weeks ago, but it could take up to three weeks before the Nigerian is granted a work permit, because the Depart-

ment of Employment is insisting that non-EC players meet tougher admission criteria.

Arsenal face the Premiership leaders, Chelsea, on Sunday and then, after a visit to West Ham the following weekend, take on Sheffield United in the fifth round of the FA Cup just four days before meeting Manchester United at Old Trafford.

Diawara, 23, has been training with Arsenal this week and Bordeaux say that a transfer fee - thought to be around £2.5m, although the Highbury club will not confirm the figure - has been agreed.

Diawara, a powerfully-built former France Under-21 international, has apparently become unsettled at Bordeaux

even though he has contributed five goals in their progress to second place in the French First Division and the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup.

However, Diawara had invariably been used as a substitute and the Bordeaux coach, Elie Baup, said: "If he comes back to us he will spend the rest of the season on the bench."

Players' unions are lobbying FIFA to bring in an annual four-week break from football across the globe. The international federation of players' unions is applying pressure amid fears that some footballers are playing too many matches.

Sunderland attracted a crowd of 33,517 to the Stadium of Light for Wednesday's Football League match against Liverpool reserves. Fans were admitted free but over £7,000 was raised.

FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Photographer: John Voss

Disarming and dangerous

She is the authorities' worst nightmare. Eco-warrior Margaret Jones has spent two weeks living in the rafters of a warehouse. At 50, she's no dreadlocked mucky youth – she's a woman of a certain age who doesn't give a damn

BY ANN TRENEMAN

At 10pm yesterday the police came for Dr Margaret Jones. For 15 days she had barricaded herself inside a warehouse on a scrubby patch of land called Stow Common in east London. This all in aid of stopping the last of the Avon Ring Road.

Her supporters call her Swaggy's Sister, though this seems a fairly faint-hearted title. At 50, she has been married, had her two children and taught at university. Now she has given it all up – the job, the car, the house, the life of a middle-class woman. She may be Dr Jones, eco-warrior, but she is not a woman of a certain age who simply doesn't give a damn, and that makes her dangerous.

Perhaps that is why some 20 to 30 men were gathered on the Common yesterday morning. There were a dozen police officers and PCS, all fully kitted out. The sheriff and his men were there, as a full contingent of security men glowing away in their fluorescent vests. "I'm the gun to make it easy for them," Dr Jones had warned. To this end she had barricaded herself in the warehouse rafters and had taken up residence there. "I'm staying until I'm told," she announced. "I'm not leaving until I'm told."

Her day is tomorrow.

The present Dr Jones heard the announcement, she rang her aide-de-camp on the outside. His name is Rowland (the and the mobile ring "Hello, it's Margaret. I'm not to disturb you so early in the morning." "I'm not as you do when you are under the night. Half an hour later she was escorted out.

Her act was raised and she was blowing a whistle. She shouted that the police had been magnificent, real professionals, who managed to get her out much faster than she had thought possible. Then, with a shout of "Stop the Avon Ring Road!" she was bundled off.

Yesterday morning Rowland was handling the media from a call box outside the police station. He apologised because he had to teach in the afternoon and so wouldn't be available. Rowland's PhD is in medical physics. He says that I can call them the PhD eco-warriors. He has been assiduously helpful. During our first conversation, I said I'd like to talk to Margaret. "Do you have her mobile number?" he asked. Margaret has a mobile. Later I discovered that she had not one but two. They had been smuggled to her inside loaves of bread in her daily food packages.

I ring and she describes the situation. The security firm had erected a metal fence some 20 feet from the warehouse, and this area is patrolled at all times by at least six or seven security men. There was no chance of me getting any closer. I would have to stand outside the fence. Margaret would poke her head out of the roof. Then we would shout at each other. "Do you have a whistle?" she asked. I did not. "You will need a whistle because that's the only way I will know you are there." Right. "And Wellingtons. It's very, very muddy. You must have Wellingtons."

I bought a whistle for £1 off Rowland and, standing outside the fence, ankle deep in mud, blew. Margaret's head poked out. "Do you have the right boots on?" she shouted. I said I was more worried about freezing to death. "Aren't you cold?" I shouted. She wasn't because she had blankets and a sleeping bag and plastic too. Later the photographs showed that she had covered herself in bubble wrap. She claimed to be really rather comfortable. She had books

and writing-paper but was allowed no newspapers. A supporter had brought her a T-shirt yesterday that said "What Traffic Problem?" but she had not been allowed to keep it because it was too political. She was allowed as much food as she wanted, and winched it up in a string bag. She was not bored. She had just finished *The White Hotel* by DM Thomas and was embarking on *Intimacy* by Hanif Kureishi. She had a candle to read by. She was writing a novel but didn't want to talk about it. "We'll see how it turns out first."

She seemed incredibly together given the circumstances. "This is so weird but it is also strangely domestic," she shouted. "Before I built this platform I was on the ground and collected rainwater from the holes in the roof to flush the toilet. I could hear the security men wandering about and buckets banging. I felt like I was in some medieval courtyard. Then I would smell their bacon frying. Yes, it is strange."



Security men outside the warehouse in which Dr Jones barricaded herself (top) pretended not to hear the interview shouted across 20 yards

ly domestic. At night the security light comes on. So we have a little routine."

She says it is odd being an onlooker from the inside. The security men ignored her – and the shouting – completely. *The Independent's* photographer told me that he felt like we were in the middle of a *Play for Today*.

There is something resilient about Dr Jones that comes with the fact of her age and her commitment. Like the women at Greenham Common, she is simply not going to be told what to do. Like the housewives at Brightlingsea, she is going to have her say. In America there is a protest group called Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Its founder, a lawyer in her fifties, says that there is nothing like an angry old broad to flummox the authorities. Their newsletter is headed by a quote from Dorothy Sayers: "Time and trouble will tame an advanced young woman but an advanced old woman is uncontrollable by any earthly force."

Margaret Jones grew up in Hertfordshire. She says she was always political and was inspired by her headmistress at grammar school, where they did such things as trek 26 miles for charity. She went to Egypt and got married to a fellow lecturer in literature. In 1983 they went to America, where they stayed for nine years, studying and working at various universities. In 1992 Margaret became a senior lecturer in American literature at the University of the West of England. She published two books, one based on her PhD thesis and another on feminism. She and her husband are now separated. "But we still have a loving relationship. It's just by telephone," she shouts. She said that he wanted to teach in Egypt and she wanted to do direct action in England. The two are just a bit incompatible.

She gave up her job 18 months ago because she just felt that it was no longer fulfilling to be a part-time radical. She fought the poll tax, trespassed at Stonehenge and led protests against the veal trade. But it wasn't enough. Rowland says that Margaret is a rational and scientific Marxist. I thought this might be the case when she started shouting about praxis. This is the practical side of theory, the action rather than the talk. "This is the idea of doing things that arise from what you think. I saw the issues. I saw how the police work and how the courts always protect property. You think about that. You think about what that means. You go and write letters about it. After a while, that is no longer enough."

Her head bobbed. It is unnerving talking just to someone's head. The only thing I can really say in terms of description is that she has a centre parting.

She says she came to this rather strange sardonic by accident. She is against the ring road because of the development it will bring, more than the traffic per se. In mid-November she founded a camp a mile or

so away from the Common and lived there in deep mud for some time. Then they found out the warehouse was due for demolition and she and her friends decided to make it a squat. They snuck in through the roof and then, as the law dictates, after a few days they put up signs saying it was their home. The authorities were furious. The road has already been hideously delayed, mostly by the Stop the Avon Ring Road (STAR) campaign and the ingenious legal tactics of a man named Andrew Nicholson. Now they also had these squatters to deal with. Then everyone but Margaret went out to get some food and the security closed in. She was trapped.

"The thing I really want to say is that anyone can do this," she shouts. "I really think if people feel strongly about issues they should get out there and do what they can. Direct action, if necessary. It doesn't take much. I want to demystify this." But, I shout, there is a big difference between believing in something at weekends and giving everything up full-time for the cause. "Yes, I see what you mean. It is a mental leap. I had to learn what was possible. I learned, too. I learned how to run a camp. How to have a balanced diet in the middle of a forest. How to keep your feet dry."

She says that her mother always said that if you want to do something then you should do it properly. Margaret Jones has done this thing properly. She knows the laws inside out. Up until yesterday she had not broken any of them. Yesterday, after her release, she rang me on her mobile which, amazingly, is still working. She was at a friend's home. She said a half dozen people had been waiting for her when she was finally released. She was happy for their support. She says she's been charged with resisting an officer. "I'm going to plead guilty because I am. In fact, I wish everyone else was guilty too."

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MUSIC

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2/COMMENT AND LETTERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Disharmony

Sir: Poor Sir Dennis Stevenson ("Modern concerts 'boring' says Blair's arts adviser", 27 January). He "works hard" all day, then cannot find a parking place for his evening concert, then finds modern composers "elitist and arrogant" and finally falls asleep because the concert is too long! What is he working at "all day" that makes him so tired? (Quite often the musicians who will give him the evening concert will also have been working "all day"). He could perhaps get a taxi instead of "the hassle" of finding a parking place; he could perhaps attend a pre-concert talk where he would meet a composer, who is not necessarily "elitist and arrogant"; by which time, possibly with the help of a coffee or a G and T, he would be wide awake, interested and stimulated into listening, actively, on the edge of his seat, to an hour and a half's music at least. He could then have a nice meal by 9.30pm at the latest and go home. If this is not possible for him why is he advising our Prime Minister on the Arts? **BERNARD ROBERTS**
Lambeth, Guyana

Sir: Dennis Stevenson talks as if he were the only concert-goer in the civilised world. He should live 70 miles or more from any big city for a year or so on a salary of, say, £20,000. Then he might just be grateful for the choice of concerts (boring and otherwise) he gets every day in London by virtue of his location and his undoubted wealth. Living around here, one is jolly lucky to hear a performance by a full-size professional symphony orchestra or opera company in a comfortable, well-appointed venue more than a few times a year. To travel to London in time for a performance is virtually impossible for many people after a full day's work.

Does it not occur to him that many people travel from London suburbs to concerts and that 7pm would be far too early for them? Or that, for many, the price of tickets is high enough to preclude supper after the concert?

I had hoped that a Labour government might have taken some artistic advice from ordinary voters, but it goes on appointing the same kind of people the Tories did - the wealthy and powerful, who move in restricted social circles. **PAUL DAWSON**
Ipswich, Suffolk

Sir: Thank you for reporting Sir Dennis Stevenson's timely comments on the contemporary music scene in this country.

Real music does not need explanation. Does Beethoven have to be explained, or Bach or Mozart? Even "programme" music should stand in its own right as a musical argument.

The main problem in our country (I come from America) is the BBC. The only composers they accept are those sold to them by the spin-doctors of the music profession. In the absence of any absolute criteria they choose those composers using the right sort of trendy gimmicks and presenting the right "image". Hence so much work heard on the air is meretricious modern garbage written by people who should never call themselves composers. If music is any good it gets through to the audience on its own terms. **ROGER DE BLANCKE**
London NW7

Wealth of learning

Sir: Jane Sutcliffe (letter, 25 January) says she was never afforded the opportunity to attend Oxford. This is strange, as the opportunity is offered to all, without regard to social background or parental wealth. All it requires is ability.

At least, that was the case up until now. From this year, under the system Ms Sutcliffe supports, it is also necessary to find several thousand pounds to pay for the privilege of being educated. People from backgrounds like mine,

whose families are not wealthy, and who have been brought up with a view that debt is best avoided, will now be discriminated against, favouring the wealthy over the able.

This is not the principle upon which most people want to see university education allocated, and it is to the detriment of society. It benefits us all to see the most able pushed to the limits of their ability at institutions like Oxford. **ANTHONY POTTS**
London E14

Tarnished Globes

Sir: The Independent is to be congratulated on Andrew Gumbel's report on the Golden Globes (26 January). The truth behind the Golden Globes is potentially as big a scandal as the current Olympic inquest, and when it is finally embraced by the media there are going to be a lot of red faces among those, including the US media, studios and agents, who have chosen to misrepresent to the public exactly what the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and the Golden Globes are all about.

The vast majority of journalists in Los Angeles who cover the film and television industries for the media outside the US are not members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, nor are they welcome to be members. Sadly, many of the artists receiving their awards honestly believe - as do the majority of the global television audience and the American public - that their work is being honoured by all the foreign journalists based in Los Angeles.

The studios know the truth but are happy with the status quo, as the Globes is a cheap marketing tool for films in release and the run-up to the Academy Awards nominations on 8 February. The timing of the Globes is no coincidence and can affect how the 5,000-plus members of the Academy vote on the Oscars and what the public pay to see at their local cinemas in the coming weeks.

Given the money involved with all aspects of the Golden Globes the odds are that most of the Hollywood crowd will stick their heads firmly in the ground and ignore the obvious. It is going to be up to the media outside the US to expose the Golden Globes as the exercise in smoke and mirrors it truly is.

If changes are not made very soon, the Golden Globes could damage the Hollywood myth and even the Academy Awards themselves, both innocent bystanders in this unnecessary deception. **CHRISTOPHER PICKARD**
Editor
"Moving Pictures"
Los Angeles

Labour witch-hunt

Sir: Years ago, the Labour Party sacked its witchfinders and rid itself of the apparatus of thought control. New Labour now has need of these old instruments, carefully retrieved from the Chamber of Horrors in the basement at

Millbank Tower. The Independent Labour Network is to be proscribed, and the first of a series of trials will shortly break out in Leeds ("Labour tries to stamp out anti-Blair network", 26 January).

But the coming purge has been preceded by very much more serious action, in the rigging of the electoral system to impose closed lists in the European elections. Now it will be impossible for the Independent Labour Network to field candidates in the upcoming elections. A new official called the Registrar of Political Parties has informed us that registration is precluded under the terms of the Registration of Political Parties (Prohibited Words and Expressions) Order 1998.

The Independent Labour Party was formed in 1892, to promote candidates who would be independent of the established parties and defend the interests of the emerging Labour movement. It is now illegal for any Independent Labour Party to present such candidates, at the same time that the leader of New

Labour is seeking to annul the Labour Party itself by merging it into a new Lib-Lab alliance. New Labour seeks to nullify our traditions by coercion of its own people, and legal interdiction of all others who may offer to challenge it.

KEN COATES MEP
(Nottinghamshire North & Chesterfield, Independent Lib) Mansfield, Nottinghamshire

Race and adoption

Sir: It is not true to say that those of us who advocated same-race adoption placements believed that all that was needed was a black skin, or that we thought, "What's love got to do with it?" ("Secrets, lies and the burning need to discuss adoption", 28 January).

When Lambeth Council became the first local authority to introduce same-race placement we believed that considerable damage was being done to black children by ignoring their racial and cultural identities. These policies caused a storm,

and there has been a backlash ever since from many white, middle-class people who feel that they should have free access to acquire able-bodied children, black or white.

It is true that some social workers applied what to my mind is a political definition of black, rather than looking at the needs of the individual child. But it has to be said that when placing a child they always take into account the ability of the prospective adopter to provide love, security and stability.

The subtext for much of the recent debate is the assumption that white rather than black people can best provide those important requirements to black children. **LINDA BELLOS**
London SE22
The writer was the leader of Lambeth Council 1986-1988

Denning's justice

Sir: Many advocates will have memories of Lord Denning ("Denning praise", 26 January). My first sight of him was before his appointment to the High Court when he began to sit as Chairman of Quarter Sessions in Sussex.

I had the task of defending in a drink-drive case, before the advent of the breathalyser. The issue was simply whether my client's ability to drive was impaired by drink. The case hung on conflicts of evidence between the defendant and the police. At a time when many judges regarded it as their duty to support the police, Denning treated the evidence with complete impartiality, and left it wholly to the jury to decide. They acquitted.

I was sufficiently impressed by this to tell a colleague, whose reply was: "Give him time and he will be like the others!"

Lord Denning had more time than most. He was never like the others. Perhaps his great achievement is that, slowly and painfully, others have tried to be like him. Long may he live! **TOM EDIE**
Fordingbridge, Hampshire

IN BRIEF

setting up the full Executive whether or not the IRA promptly disarms ("Angry clashes over release of terror inmates", 28 January). For the agreement's decommissioning section, like it or not, provides only that its signatories "use any influence they may have" to persuade the paramilitaries to disarm over the next two years. Sinn Féin's democratic electoral mandate is unaffected by what the IRA, not a signatory to the agreement, does.

THOMAS HUTCHISON
McFadden
Oxford

Sir: I am genuinely curious about why Anna Treneman keeps going on about cleaning

toilets ("Racist enemy No 1", 26 Jan.) "Seems that willingness to undertake this (presumably arduous or unpleasant) task is a test of being a 'new man'."

I've been maintaining my toilet (ordinary ceramic flush variety) reasonably clean for the past several years and find the task no more unpleasant or difficult than keeping a wash basin clean.

You just sprinkle in some cleaning fluid or powder and scrub with a brush or abrasive pad. If I've been omitting some Trenemanian operation then I don't see that it can be a particularly important one.

Come on, Anna, explain yourself. Have you got a bottom-of-the-garden earth closet? Or what? **MALCOLM JACKSON**
London SE22

The politics of food

Sir: I am concerned that because the new food watchdog will be paid for by food retailers and the food industry it will not be independent. It will no doubt pay for research which will assure us that genetically engineered food and artificial additives are wonderfully safe. **C WELLS**
Ruislip, Middlesex

Sir: Food producers are only required to itemise on the label those ingredients that make up more than 25 per cent of the product. We aren't really sure what we are eating even if we do take the trouble to scrutinise labels.

Will the new Food Standards Agency have the strength to overcome objections from the powerful foods lobby to ensure all ingredients are listed so that consumers can make an informed choice about the food they eat?

This will be the acid test that the FSA is free from food producers' influence and manipulation and that it is putting the consumer first. **NIGEL BEDROCK**
London SW16

Sir: As one of Britain's dwindling number of cattle keepers, I have a question for the Chief Medical Officer ("Beef on bone ban must stay, says health chief", 22 January). Why has a zoonotic disease (one that is transferred from animal to man) been diagnosed, when the first principle has not been fulfilled - to identify the disease in the occupationally exposed?

Surely the so-called virulent, indestructible BSE pathogen would have been passed to those such as slaughtermen who have worked in an aerosol spray of these tissues for years. What of the knackermen, the hunt, the millers who worked daily in the dust, not to mention the farmers? All these people are prone to cuts and abrasions, risking direct entry into the bloodstream.

Is it not time that serious consideration was given to the idea that this may not be an infection, but the result of an environmental trigger, such as organophosphates? **JOANNA WHEATLEY**
Maidenhead, Berkshire

Safety first

Sir: I couldn't agree with Diana Lamplugh (letter, 26 January) more. Being the single mother of three children who also works full time, I allow my children to walk home from school every night. While the media has a job to do reporting incidents which occur rarely, these incidents are blown out of all proportion, resulting in parents keeping their children wrapped in a mythical blanket of security.

Children who are constantly shielded from the harmful side of life lack the ability to detect or sense trouble in its infancy. These skills have to be gently taught and firmly put in perspective.

If more parents, teachers and adults in general would help children to look out for their own safety, not only would there be safety in numbers but lone, unhappy children would not be so easy to target.

Stop making it easy for the unspeakable to happen by blinding yourselves and your children to the world of reality by taking away their independence, and making the streets unsafe for everyone. **BEVERLEY SMITH**
Sheffield

Ministers' pay check

Sir: Surely ministers' pay awards (report, 27 January) should be performance-linked, like teachers' and nurses' pay? Targets should be set, such as percentage of manifesto pledges met and reduction in time waited for politicians to give straight answers to questions. A new regulator, Ofgov, would, of course, make regular inspections and publish its findings. **IMOGEN COOPER**
Plyford, Northamptonshire

Humans are not ready for religions of peace and joy

I HARDLY ever turn on a television news programme these days for fear of finding myself listening to another devout Muslim telling me that we have got Islam all wrong. The last one I saw (by accident, on Newsnight, only two days ago) encapsulated everything that is normally said by Islamic apologists. He said something roughly like this: "We Muslims are sick and tired of being depicted by the West as all fundamentalists and fanatics. Islam is a religion of peace and joy. You only have to read the Koran to find that out. You will all come to realise it when Islam comes to dominate the world..."

Yes, he really did use the word "dominate". I leave it to others to explain how a religion that seeks to dominate the world is also a religion of peace and joy. But I am the

first to agree that all religions from time to time have made similar claims. Almost all the faiths I have come across have claimed to be the only true religion, and have also claimed to be a creed of peace and joy. Christianity, in its day, has claimed to be a militant religion, though you only have to read the Bible to find out that Christianity is also a creed of peace and joy...

The truth is that some Muslims are apostles of peace and joy, and some are apostles of war, terror and bloody reprisals. The same is true of Christians. You don't have to go to the Yemen to find fundamentalist violence. A trip to Northern Ireland will bring you the same treat, at less expense. Christian fundamentalist brethren are bombing, beating and blowing each other up there on a regular basis. I believe it is called

the "peace process". But because they are so close to us, we don't think of the people in Northern Ireland as the same kind of people as Islamic fundamentalists.

In any case, what we have in Northern Ireland is not fundamentalist Christian against unbeliever - it's fundamentalist Christian against fundamentalist Christian, so that's obviously different. But is it? You get the same phenomenon in Islam, where Sunni Muslims are daggers drawn against Shi'ite Muslims, much as Catholics and Protestants are at each other's throats, or kneecaps, in Northern Ireland.

There is no more natural enmity than a misguided neighbour. There was a dreadful case in India the other day of a Christian missionary and his family being set on fire and



MILES KINGTON

Fundamentalism gives you the intolerance, cruelty, self-righteousness and tunnel vision you need

killed in their car by a Hindu mob, but it's unusual to hear of Hindus attacking Christians. Hindus killing

and maiming friendly neighbour-hood Muslims is the usual pattern. Even in Pakistan itself Muslims do not treat each other with quite the peace and joy the Koran recommends, and violence in Pakistan is now a raging problem, while in Algeria devout Muslims murder each other with a gay abandon I would not wish to see turned on anyone else, whether Christians or atheists.

In my more youthful days I used to conclude from all this that religion was to blame, that the armies marching under different banners were driven by religion to persecute each other. But I have changed my mind. I no longer believe that religions are wrong. I think that people are wrong. I think that human beings are not yet ready for religion, which is far too good for them. The same thing was always true of

Communism, which would have worked perfectly with perfect people, but was inflicted on ordinary people, people like us, with all our propensity to be nasty, brutish and rather short with each other, to use power for selfish ends and to use belief as a weapon to beat each other over the head with.

Most of the time it is difficult to match people's behaviour with the religion they think they believe in. The only Buddhist country I have known much at first hand, Burma, is governed by a bloodthirsty, thug-gish crowd of extortionists much given to inflicting pain and torture on their own people in a way that might have made the Buddha wince a bit. Apartheid was enthusiastically backed by the established South African church. The Islamic impact of Taliban on Afghanistan

does not bring the words "peace" and "joy" to mind.

Religion is fine. It's just that nobody is good enough for it. That's why they invented fundamentalism. Fundamentalism is for people who can't handle religion properly. Everyone can get to grips with fundamentalism after only a few basic lessons. Whether Islamic or Hindu, Catholic or Protestant, fundamentalism gives you the intolerance, cruelty, self-righteousness and tunnel vision you need.

And, of course, ways to spout the necessary nonsense. Look "fundamentalism" up in the dictionary. It's right there next to the word "fundament", meaning "backside". Fundamentalism is clearly the art of talking through your backside. And there's no species better at it than the human race.

THE INDEPENDENT

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New Labour should avoid snuggling up to the unions again

WHEN THE former trade and industry secretary, Peter Mandelson, addressed the Trades Union Congress last year, he had one important and persuasive message. He told delegates that it was time to clear their minds of the notion that the interests of employers and employees are necessarily in conflict. They had to understand that all the stakeholders in an enterprise stood to gain from its success. He did not phrase it quite like that, but that was the gist – and a spectacular piece of ideological cheek it was. For a Labour cabinet minister to tell the union movement that the principle on which it was founded is bunk was quite something.

But it was the right thing to say and, whatever the failings that pushed Mr Mandelson from office, his message should be passed on. In that context, the publication yesterday of the Fairness at Work Bill should be seen as being at a tangent to the central issues of the modern workplace. Most of the measures contained in it are reasonable – even “fair” – compromises that represent a rebalancing of the dangerously tilted structures of industrial relations left over from the Thatcher era. Who could argue against restricting the right to dismiss workers “unfairly”? Who could disagree that, if more than 50 per cent of a workforce vote on a reasonable turnout to be represented by a union, they should be entitled to be so?

But we should beware of thinking that these basic safeguards have anything to do with the real issues of competitive advantage and the success of enterprises, which depend on their culture, skills and the ability to innovate. Many of the forward-looking unions and their leaders recognise that they now have a much smaller role than they had in the past, and that their best hope of influence is to support flexibility and risk-taking.

But there are disturbing signs that the Government, for all its New Labour modernisation Muzak, is snuggling comfortably into an unspoken compact. It has given the unions new representation rights and has shut up about the 50 per cent union block vote at Labour conferences – in return for a quiet life on public sector pay, and union votes in favour of the Prime Minister's candidate to lead the Welsh Assembly.

This is bad for both sides. If the new Trade and Industry Secretary, Stephen Byers, is famous for one thing, it is telling businessmen in a seafood restaurant in Blackpool that Labour should cut its links with the unions. He should say it again, and this time in public. Instead of yesterday's candy-floss phrase about family-friendly policies, it would have been preferable to hear the Mandelson message from Mr Byers. The interests of workers and bosses are not opposed. Mr Byers should say that again, too. If the Government cannot speak the truth to its paymasters, when it is winning, when will it?



Food for thought as you devour breakfast

THE EUROPEAN Parliament's vote to ban battery hen farming should be applauded as a small but significant step in the protection of animals from cruelty. But why should it take 10 years to eliminate this unpleasant and unnecessary form of industrialised food production? “To give egg producers time to adapt”, we are told, as if poultry farmers were a primitive form of life that will take millions of years to evolve into a more intelligent species.

When agriculture ministers meet to consider the parliament's recommendation, Nick Brown should argue for a quicker phase-out. This is a simple moral decision; it will cost the consumers of Europe more – but only fractionally more, and certainly not enough to justify a decade's delay. Generally, this newspaper argues for less state intervention in the heavily subsidised European food market, and for abolishing the Common Agricultural Policy. But this is a classic example of a case where a free market requires state action. Consumers need full information if markets are to work efficiently. Most consumers do not know the conditions in which their eggs are produced, or they are misled by “farm fresh” labels, or just buy the cheapest.

Free markets take no account of the interests of animals. All markets must operate under the constraints of ethical laws; the issue here is where to draw the line.

Nor should eggs be the end of the line. There are many more causes of avoidable animal suffering, and we have not finished with breakfast yet. For all our moral outrage over fox-hunting and seal culls, there seems precious little indignation to spare for the cruelty inflicted on a grand scale on the animals we use for food. It is not just eggs, but also chicken meat, pork and, to a lesser extent, beef and cows' milk. How many rashers of intensively reared bacon would you like with your free-range eggs?

Better by design

FORD IS buying Volvo's car-making business. Bad news for dummies. But some commentators also argue that this is another step on the road to the bland, one-size-fits-all “world car”. They're wrong. Ford won't mess with a marque so successful among well-to-do Volvo-owning classes. Volvos will still come from Sweden; they will be “safe”. Ford will help Volvo to survive by sharing its vast engineering resources. Volvo is a small player, making 400,000 cars a year to Ford's 7 million. It matters little if a Volvo shares a wiper motor or a floorpan with a Mondeo. It can still be distinctive, just as Saabs, owned by General Motors and related to Vauxhalls, are. Volvo already collaborates with Mitsubishi. It has shared engine development with Peugeot and Renault. Globalisation is older than people think, and it is intensifying. But it is not the end of good design. Volvo, like Jaguar before it, has little to fear from Uncle Henry.

Tory Europhiles may be heroic but they are stuck in a terrible hole

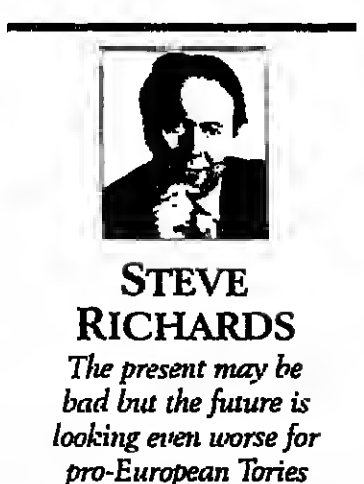
IT IS much fun being a Tory Europhile at the moment. It has not been a very long time, but it has been a very long time since the Tories have been so popular. The big question is whether the Tories can stay in power long enough to see through the referendum. The Tories are in a terrible hole. They are stuck in a terrible hole. They are stuck in a terrible hole.

In an interview with me for Radio 4's *Week in Westminster* last night, Michael Heseltine gave the clearest indication of how he and his senior colleagues planned to tackle it. He was speaking for several senior allies, as well as himself, as he confirmed that they met regularly to discuss tactics.

In the interview, Heseltine implied William Hague was an irrelevance in this debate. Hague was leader of the Opposition, not the Prime Minister. Conveniently this avoids spending too much time attacking your own leader. Instead the Heseltine gaze focused entirely on Tony Blair.

The Prime Minister was displaying “weak leadership” on Europe, Heseltine declared. He and his Tory colleagues were waiting for a signal from him to step up their campaign in favour of joining the euro. He said tentatively that, if Blair were to back the euro unequivocally, “all sorts of things would happen”. Specifically he called for the referendum before the general election, convinced that an alliance linking Heseltine, Clarke via Ashdown to Blair and the Cabinet would be winnable.

On the surface this all sounds very tempting. Tony Blair has had the pro-European Tories in his sights for several years. Blair's co-architect in the realignment project, Paddy Ashdown, has been quite open about it. “The Tory party will split and Europe will be the catalyst,” he told me soon after the election. A misjudged flirtation took place a year ago, when Blair raised the prospect of co-operation in a speech without giving Heseltine and



STEVE RICHARDS

The present may be bad but the future is looking even worse for pro-European Tories

no advance warning (although Ken Clarke did have a meeting with the Foreign Office minister, Derek Fatchett, shortly afterwards). The moment appears to be drawing nearer now with the former Deputy Prime Minister crying out for Blair to let them all make common cause.

But my reading of the pro-European Tories' strategy is very different to those who predict a profound reshaping of party politics in Britain. The big Tory stars do not want to leave their party, nor do they see any hope of changing it before a referendum. But if a referendum were to be won, they are rightly convinced that the dynamics within the Tory party would change dramatically.

Once the voters had declared in favour of EMU, they could seize their moment to bring the Conservative

party to its senses. In the circumstances of a “Yes” vote, Hague would have to resign or declare that he accepted the verdict of the referendum, removing the barrier that keeps pro-Europeans out of the front line. If Hague were to stand down, no candidate could credibly bid for the leadership by arguing against the verdict of the electorate in a referendum. For the first time for years, the Europhiles would be in the driving seat.

As Heseltine is convinced that an early referendum is winnable, it is hardly surprising he is pressing for one to be held before the election. “Get us out of our misery,” he is pleading to Blair, as well as reiterating strongly held beliefs. For a victorious referendum holds out the prospect of a revived Tory party, purged of its extreme scepticism. The pro-European Tories are not interested in becoming fellow navigators on the road to a centralist realignment. They are interested in transforming the Conservatives from within. Winning a referendum would be their means to bring this about.

So Blair should be wary of the potential for political dividends arising from the Heseltine overture. Indeed it is quite possible – for this government can visualise the chessboard moves ahead of mere mortal strategists – that Blair will conclude the overtures should be ignored altogether. If the star Tories are not going to defect, he may not wish to be the unwitting instrument of a revived pro-European Tory party after a referendum. Instead, he may consider it more tactically useful to tease out the tensions within the Tory party for

several more years, aware that only a referendum would resolve them.

What is depressing is that the tactics on all sides will dictate Britain's approach to the single currency. It is nonsense to suggest, as the Government does, that entry will be recommended when the economic benefits are “clear and unambiguous”. The economic case is a factor, but there will never be a clear and unambiguous moment. In economics there never is. In reality, entry will occur when the political benefits are clear-cut. The gesture of friendship from Tory Europhiles is not clear or unambiguous enough.

Nearly always in Britain's relationship with Europe, internal politics has mattered more than the country's immediate and long-term interests, whether it was Harold Wilson pretending to be opposed to entering the Common Market or Margaret Thatcher arguing in favour of Britain joining the European Monetary System (as she did when leader of the opposition in the late Seventies, but only to make the Labour government appear economically weak).

Now the most distinguished and charismatic politicians of our age, from Blair to Heseltine, believe Britain should join the single currency, and yet we have no idea when or even if this will arise. One of the reasons for the doubts is that the charismatic politicians come from different parties and have every intention of staying in them after the battle, which temporarily unites them, has been won.

The writer is political editor of the *New Statesman*

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I want to repay Geoffrey Robinson's loan because that's the right thing to do.”
Peter Mandelson,
former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“A man can do what he wants, but not what he wants.”
Arthur Schopenhauer,
German philosopher

COLOMBIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Monday's earthquake devastated the Colombian city of Armenia and surrounding towns and villages. Over 1,000 are feared dead and many thousands are homeless. No-one knows how many are trapped beneath the rubble.

Colombian Red Cross-trained volunteers were the first on the scene, searching for survivors and caring for the injured. But with emergency facilities badly damaged, they need your help now to provide food, medical aid, tents and generators.

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Comment on Indonesia's tentative offer of independence for East Timor

mainstream Western supporter. If our government is committed to democracy and human rights, why aren't we leading instead of following Australia? *The Press, New Zealand*

INDONESIA TROTTED out the same old line as colonial governments of the past. Look at the roads and the civic buildings constructed under Indonesian rule. Look how much

more money Jakarta spent on East Timor than the neglectful former colonial power, Portugal. The argument is based on the superior belief that the people of East Timor are too poor, too culturally backward and too divided to rule themselves. But, in this game of saving face, Indonesia is prepared to lose no more. It is the last card Indonesia has left to play. *Sydney Morning Herald, Australia*

AT A TIME when the country faces growing internal turmoil, the realisation that within Indonesia the campaign to integrate East Timor has little public support is vital. Indonesian indications of a change in policy on East Timor are welcome, but it is a welcome tempered by the knowledge that its rule there has been bloody and unrelenting. The East Timorese struggle would seem to be far from over. *The Age, Australia*

ANALYSTS have been warning of a “policy drift” in the UK since the election. The UK has been drifting away from its commitment to the European Union. The UK has been drifting away from its commitment to the European Union. The UK has been drifting away from its commitment to the European Union.

Tanorese independence will be so high that it will not be worth paying. *Editor, Globe*

NOW EVEN Australia has recognised East Timor's right to self-determination. Given that our government has up to now followed Australia in supporting Indonesia's repression in East Timor, it would be a tragedy if we were to continue on this inherent course, becoming Indonesia's only re-

مكتبة الجليل

PANDORA

BBC's CONTROVERSIAL fly-on-the-wall documentary series, *Mersey Blues* continues to raise Pandora's well-plucked eyebrows. The show is supposed to illustrate the difficult job the police have on the front line, but instead it is developing into a version of *The Keystone Cops*. Wednesday night's episode was a real classic. It started a fat, hard-bitten cop tucking into plates of Chinese food. But the gourmet Detective Inspector, Elnore "Elly" Davies, is currently residing at Her Majesty's Pleasure for perverting the course of justice.

THE EVIDENCE at Elly's trial included his tape-recorded boast that his back "injury" would allow him to retire early "on a nice pension - £500 a week in my hand just for sitting on my extremely fat arse". A spokesman for the Merseyside Police told Pandora that the programme had not affected morale in the force: "We haven't had any adverse reaction. In fact, most people think that it shows a group of dedicated, hard-working officers who are very committed to the job they do."

JOHNNY DEPP has developed a weakness for the mind-bending drink absinthe, the 70 per cent proof liquor popular among deep thinkers in 19th-century Paris. Depp ordered two crates of the drink before Christmas and another five this week. He sent some to his newest best friend, Hunter S Thompson. A music PR was later on the phone to Thompson, as he proceeded to drink the green liquid while describing its exact effects. Those responsible for bringing the drink back into circulation are the founders of *The Idler* magazine, who are putting together advertising slogans such as "Tonight we're gonna party like it's 1899".

THE LATEST offering from the free-market think-tank the Social Market Foundation might at first sight set pulses racing. However, "The rise and fall of the Swedish model" by Mauricio Rojas promises more than it is. The racy tome documents the fortunes of Sweden's version of the



Third Way rather than a history of Scandinavian glamour.

FURTHER EVIDENCE of the music world's disenchantment with Cool Britannia was to be found at the NME Premier Awards. Pandora was among the audience at the Virgin Haymarket, to see the music paper's documentary. It included a criticism of the Government on tuition fees and welfare reform. The thrusting audience was told that Tony Blair was "invited to comment on criticism of government policy but declined to take part". Not so, Downing Street told Pandora. "If we had been asked to comment on these issues we would have done." But NME's editor, Steve Sutherland, was adamant that an honest approach had been made, telling Pandora: "We did all that we could to get the Prime Minister on."

A FRESH look at one Liberal Democrat internal party contest held last year gives an interesting slant to the race to succeed Paddy Ashdown. Results for the 1998 Federal Executive, an important steering group for the party, show the Taunton MP, Jackie Ballard, topping the poll over 33 other candidates. As Pandora has already pointed out, Ballard is a good bet to enter the race, but what of front-runner Charles Kennedy? Although succeeding in getting elected to the executive body, which runs elections on an STV basis, Kennedy comes in behind Old Liberal stalwart Tony Greaves. A fine achievement for Greaves, considering that his election literature was withdrawn by the executive's adjudicators.

CANDY ATHERTON, Labour MP for Falmouth and Cranborne, has eschewed the boring business of flat-sharing in favour of a 50ft narrowboat, to be moored as close as possible to the House of Commons without upsetting the view from the Speaker's apartments. The boat, currently jammed between two French naval vessels close to Pandora at Canary Wharf, will be named *The Honourable Lady*.

Contact Pandora at: pandora@independent.co.uk

Is child abuse ever a laughing matter?



PHILIP HENSHER

Jokes about horrible subjects are only distasteful if the result doesn't work as comedy

on the doorstep in my dressing gown..."). It is absurd to suggest that the quality of professional care is diminished by the callous talk in the pub after work, it would be nearer the mark to think that black humour makes it easier to do the job. All the same, there are limits, and the column in the magazine *Hospital Doctor* may have discovered one. Supposedly the diary of a fictitious

registrar, Dave Groux, it has caused a furore by going into the fraught area of child abuse. In one of Groux's adventures he gatecrashed a dinner party and gave an 11-year old girl - "a decent bit of totty, obviously fancies my pants off" - vodka and marijuana, failing to seduce her only because she started vomiting.

The column was quickly axed, and a line of people eagerly began giving their condemnations to the newspapers. Jenny Eclair gave a useful list of subjects she would never joke about, and expected no one else to joke about either - "cot death, drink driving, child abuse, AIDS... dead babies, poorly babies, meningitis - anything like that." Her list seems unnecessarily austere, and everyone knows that AIDS, in particular, breeds a sort of gallows humour which can hardly be condemned.

The conventional thing to say here is that it's all right to joke about your own condition - for blind people to talk about Guide Cats for the Blind, or for someone who is HIV positive to reminisce about that slimming biscuit in the 1970s called Aids - but not for anyone else.

But I think it's rather less comfortable than that. The truth is that it's all right to make jokes about these horrible subjects if it's funny, and only distasteful and deplorable if the result doesn't work as comedy. Personally, I would say that the "Dave Groux" column is deplorable and offensive, not because its subject is an 11-year-old girl, but because it's no good. If the anecdote were about a girl twice the age, it would be no funnier, and no less offensive; conversely, if it were well done, the fact that it was a joke about child abuse would not really stop people laughing at it.

The test case, of course, is Bernard Manning, who many people quite rightly find extremely offensive. But it's easy to draw the wrong lesson from the grisly spectacle of Manning on stage; to assume that he's not funny because his subject matter is not and never could be funny. The truth is that Manning isn't funny because he isn't a particularly remarkable comedian, and, not being funny, he sounds like a demagogue.

There are certainly far more extreme comedians around than Man-

ning. Howard Jacobson has written about a routine by Roy "Chubby" Brown of eye-popping tastelessness, including the appalling remark that "Someone told me to take a box of tissues when I went to see *Schindler's List*. *Schindler's List*? I couldn't find anything to wank over in *Schindler's List*."

The awful fact is that Brown, a much more technically adroit comedian than Manning, is genuinely extremely funny. Perhaps it's because he takes more careful aim than Manning, making a joke, here, not about the Holocaust, but about the multi-million dollar pieties of Hollywood. But I wouldn't bet on it; nor would I bet that he would be incapable of making his audience laugh with jokes even about "dead babies, poorly babies, meningitis".

The terrible fact is that, although we might hope always to turn away from jokes about child abuse, there is always the danger that, in the middle of saying "I just don't think that is at all amusing, to tell you the truth..." we may find ourselves at the hideous giggling mercy of what is, quite suddenly, a terribly funny joke.

After 350 years, we should sort out the Lords - again



BILLY BRAGG

It's time to do away with the notion of an 'Upper House' and all its patriarchal baggage

the "Norman yoke", based upon the notion that, before 1066, the Anglo-Saxons had lived as free citizens, governing themselves. The Norman Conquest deprived them of this liberty and established the alien tyranny of feudalism.

This belief is not borne out by history. Just as the British invented baseball whereas the Americans were clever enough to codify it, so a loose feudalism had been practised in England before the Normans came in and enshrined the system in law. Before the Conquest the country was administered by *eorldormen*, each of whom was in charge of a shire. After the Battle of Hastings these local lords were replaced by the friends of William I.

However, the notion that Anglo-Saxon institutions had been essentially democratic persisted. To the Diggers, the survival of Norman French in the legislative language of England gave an edge to their demands; with the presence in the House of Lords of the remnants of King William's feudal aristocracy, ranting against the "Norman Yoke" had contemporary resonance.

Even the barons themselves were not above evoking a pre-Norman utopia. At Runcymeade in 1215, they called on King John to re-establish the rights of free men as they had been in the time of Edward the Confessor. By pointing to this tradition, the radicals of the 1640s were able to shake off the accusation that they were dangerous innovators and insist that they merely desired to restore ancient rights.

Thus, all the way back to the Magna Carta, there is a continuity of dissent and reform in this country that continues to frame the aspirations of modern campaigners. Charter 88 takes its name in part from the Chartist movement of the mid 19th century and this year the Common Sense Club will be mounting a campaign to have a statue of Tom Paine erected in London.

While their Lordships encourage deference to custom and practice, it is this rival tradition of initiation that has brought progressive change to our society.

Personally, I am opposed to the idea of a house of nominees and trust that the Royal Commission will equip whoever replaces the hereditaries with a democratic mandate. However, I feel the time has come to do away with the notion of an "Upper House" and all the patriarchal baggage that goes along with it. Once we remove the titled from their benches, "House of Lords" loses all its meaning. Let's not replace them with a "House of Peers". Why are we so psychologically attached to the notion of an "upper" house, an august body separated from the people by appearing to be "above" the House of Commons?

For more than a century now, sovereign power has rested solely with the Commons, and the idea of a senior chamber brings with it stale images of superannuated politicians



The abolition of the Lords followed swiftly on Charles I's death

snoozing their way through debates. I am not, however, suggesting that we should abandon the bi-cameral system of government, merely that reform can be achieved without having to create a democratic replica of the present arrangements.

Would it not be possible to set the Law Lords up in a supreme court, send the bishops home to their parishes and give the important job of revising government legislation to the proposed regional assemblies in England and the national parliaments in Scotland and Wales? By giving each region its own senate, with a clearly defined role of revising parliamentary legislation, we could avoid the rivalry that is bound to arise if two democratically elected national assemblies meet simultaneously in the capital.

The fifty senators sitting in each region would be linked by information technology for their daily deliberations, constituting a debating

"chamber" of around 400 members (considerably fewer than the present House of Lords). Such a plan would decentralise the legislative process and offer the benefits of devolution to the English shires. With elections by proportional representation in the middle of parliamentary terms, this could invigorate local political debate. It would give the marginalised regions a voice alongside the metropolitan elite who currently make up so much of our political class. Some of our enlightened noblemen might even care to put themselves before the electorate.

It would be a fine irony if the powers of the House of Lords, whose members refused to defend the democratic rights of local government in the 1980s, should be superseded by elected local officials, men and women who would be the 21st-century equivalent of the *eorldormen*, those local representatives of our Anglo-Saxon kings.

Resist the culture of death



PODIUM

JOHN PAUL II

Taken from a speech given by the Pope at Lambert Airport, St Louis during his visit to the US

AS YOU know, I have been in Mexico, to celebrate the conclusion of the Special Assembly

for America of the Synod of Bishops. The purpose of that meeting was to prepare the Church to enter the new millennium and to encourage a new sense of solidarity among the peoples of the continent. Now I am happy to bring this message to mid-America, on the banks of the Mississippi, in this historic city of St Louis, the gateway to the West.

As pastor of the universal Church, I am particularly happy to greet the Catholic community of the Archdiocese of St Louis, with its rich spiritual heritage and its dynamic traditions of service to those in need. I am looking forward to being with the priests, deacons, religious and laity of this local church, which has exercised such influence on the history of the Midwest.

Although St Louis is the only place I am able to visit at this time, I feel close to all the Catholics of the United States. I express my friendship and esteem for my fellow Christians, for the Jewish community in America, for our Muslim

brothers and sisters. I express my cordial respect for people of all religions and for every person of good will.

As history is retold, the name of St Louis will be forever linked to the first transatlantic flight, and to the immense human endeavour and daring behind the name *The Spirit of St Louis*.

You are preparing for the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase, made in 1804 by president Thomas Jefferson. That anniversary presents a challenge of religious and civic renewal to the entire community. It will be the opportunity to reaffirm "The Spirit of St Louis" and to reaffirm the genuine truths and values of the American experience.

There are times of trial, tests of national character, in the history of every country. America has not been immune to them. One such time of trial is closely connected with St Louis. Here, the famous Dred Scott case was heard. And in that case the Supreme Court of the United States subsequently declared an entire class of human beings - people of African descent - outside the boundaries of the national

community and the Constitution's protection.

After untold suffering and with enormous effort, that situation has, at least in part, been reversed. America faces a similar time of trial today. Today, the conflict is between a culture that affirms, cherishes and celebrates the gift of life, and a culture that seeks to declare entire groups of human beings - the unborn, the terminally ill, the handicapped and others

considered "unuseful" - to be outside the boundaries of legal protection. Because of the seriousness of the issues involved, and because of America's great impact on the world as a whole, the resolution of this new time of testing will have profound consequences for the century whose threshold we are about to cross.

My fervent prayer is that, through the grace of God at work in the lives of Americans of every race, ethnic group, economic condition and creed, America will resist the culture of death and choose to stand steadfastly on the side of life.

To choose life - as I wrote in this year's message for the World Day of Peace - involves rejecting every form of violence: the violence of poverty and hunger, which oppresses so many human beings; the violence of armed conflict, which does not resolve but only increases divisions and tensions; the violence of particularly abhorrent weapons such as anti-personnel mines; the violence of drug trafficking; the violence of racism; and the violence of mindless damage to the environment.

Only a higher moral vision can motivate the choice for life. And the values underlying that vision will greatly depend on whether the nation continues to honour and revere the family as the basic unit of society; the family - teacher of love, service, understanding and forgiveness; the family - open and generous to the needs of others; the family - the great well-spring of human happiness.

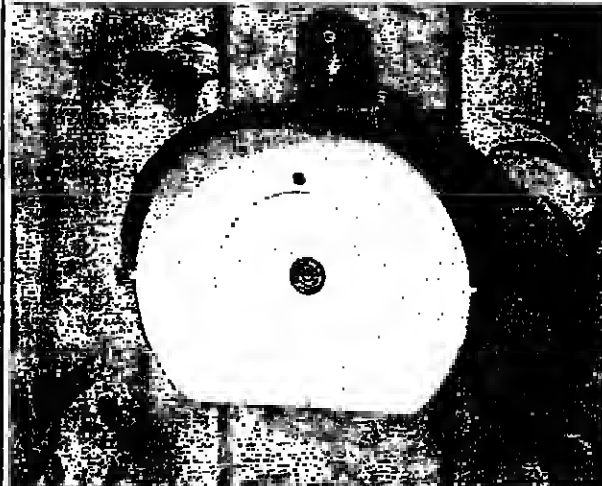
Mr President, dear friends: I am pleased to have another opportunity to thank the American people for the countless works of human goodness and solidarity which, from the beginning, have been such a part of the history of your country. At the same time I know that you will hear my plea to open wide your hearts to the ever increasing plight and urgent needs of our less fortunate brothers and sisters throughout the world.

This, too - the spirit of compassion, concern and generous sharing - must be part of "The Spirit of St Louis". Even more, it must be the renewed spirit of this "one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all". God bless you all. God bless America.

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g matter?

A new line in hypocrisy



DEBORAH ORR
Labour's attitude to transport policy is a classic example of the new cocaine socialism

IT WAS good to see old Jarvis Cocker stick his head above the parapet again this week, choosing to expand on his theory of cocaine socialism at the NME Premier Awards on Tuesday night. First formulated in a track of the same name for his latest album, *This Is Hardcore*, his argument is that champagne socialism has been superseded under New Labour by something far more pernicious. Cocaine socialism, then, is the politics of selfishness, and it is thus named after the overwhelming do-as-I-say-not-as-I-do self-absorption that is one of the most noticeable behavioural characteristics of someone on a cocaine high.

Jarvis, of course, knows whereof he speaks, and has himself displayed some of the attitudes of the cocaine socialist – not least in the replacement of Sarah, his girlfriend through the bad times before fame came along, with the teenage actor and model Chloe Sevigny. In fact, his behaviour is entirely consistent with his new ideology. Bearing in mind the massive majority of the New Labour Government, it is to be assumed that we're all cocaine socialists now.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in New Labour attitudes to transport policy, among both the officials and the voters. Chief funder among the administrators is Lord de Ramsey. His position as chairman of the Environmental Agency means that he is Britain's number one pollution watchdog, and might therefore be expected to spearhead the Government's stated policy of getting people out of their private cars and on to public transport.

Titters all round then, when the papers reported this week that, while His Lordship does indeed set an example by commuting on the train from his Cambridgeshire estate to London's King's Cross station, this example is somewhat sullied by the fact that his chauffeur sets out from his home in Reading in a Ford Scorpio diesel so that he can pick his master up from the station and drive him on a 20-minute trip through rush-hour traffic to his office in Millbank Tower.

The Tory-appointed peer refused to be interviewed, but a spokesman declared: "Lord de Ramsey is per-



A monument to car culture: Carbenge, built by American farmer Jim Reinders in Nebraska, duplicates Stonehenge, except that it's made entirely from cars

fectly entitled to use a car. It stretches credulity to suggest he should be seen standing at a bus stop." He may have been appointed by his chum John Major, but since we're all expected to take this enormous line he's offered us, we can mark Lord de Ramsey down as an instinctive cocaine socialist all the same.

More amusing still is David Begg, the messianic anti-car campaigner, Edinburgh City councillor and sometime chief adviser to John Prescott. One of the main architects of the recent White Paper that outlined the Government's strategy for getting people on to public transport, Begg is a hate figure in Edinburgh because of his hard-line policies which are entirely geared towards getting cars out of the city altogether.

So apocalyptic is his future vision of the car that he makes farmer Jim, the farmer in Ohio who has dedicated his recent years to building and maintaining "Car Henge", an exact replica of Stonehenge but built using the cars he wishes would disappear off the face of the planet, seem perfectly normal.

Begg appeared on Scottish tele-

vision earlier this week warning of a "traffic time bomb" and declaring: "I don't want to ban cars, but if we are not successful in reducing car use, then that is one of the draconian measures which we will have no choice but to implement."

Few people remained untouched by irritation when the stunningly self-righteous Begg threw away his own car keys last year in a publicity stunt to promote a pollution-free Edinburgh. Since then, he's claimed that he has never, ever used a car. This was proved to be just another big fat line when it was revealed that Begg had run up a £500 taxi bill at the council's expense.

We'd all naturally be much more keen to give up our cars if free taxis became available to us, but it's hard to see how this might bring down pollution, particularly when taxis, just like Lord de Ramsey's Scorpio, run on the diesel fuel that's so much more damaging to the environment than unleaded petrol.

Meanwhile, John Prescott himself snorts suspiciously when reminded that it may be time for him to give up his Jaguar, even if the personally launched last summer's integrated transport policy and, more

recently, the Alternative Traffic in Towns initiative, which aims to ban all but low-emission electric- and gas-driven vans, cars and buses from city centres. Even the God of Green Living, Jonathon Porritt, who wants private cars banned entirely from motorways, admits that while he doesn't own a car himself, he does borrow his wife's little runaround to do the shopping.

But when it comes to hypocrisy and bloody-mindedness on the roads, we, the public, are the worst offenders. Few people could have remained entirely unrepelled by the launch this week of the world's first hermetically sealed baby buggy. It has a pollution-proof passenger capsule, plus a filter adapted from those used in the masks worn by firemen. Its battery-driven fan sucks air through the filter and pumps 160 litres of cleaned air a minute into the baby's plastic cocoon.

Despite its £500 price tag, the Baby-Air pushchair is rolling off its Warwickshire production line at a rate of 1,000 a month, and is already in stock at Mothercare. Its inventor, Stephen Kuester, believes he's on to a winner, for parents are becoming increasingly anxious about

their children's asthma. The figures are certainly sobering. The number of children with asthma has doubled in a decade. More than a fifth of under-fives were diagnosed with it last year, while one in seven children under 15 is now asthmatic. And it's not only children who are at risk.

The Chief Medical Officer, Sir Kenneth Calman, estimates that between 12,000 and 24,000 people may be dying each year from pollution in British cities. The Government's theoretically correct solution is to crack down still further on the private motorists who contribute most to air pollution, with workplace parking fees, tolls and congestion charges planned across the country and spot fines for drivers whose exhaust fumes fail an emissions test.

But Kuester's pushchair remains more likely to protect a few petted and privileged children from asthma than any of these measures. In a survey published yesterday, the car services company Lex found that 83 per cent of drivers believed that a car was completely essential to their lifestyle. More worryingly, 68 per cent of drivers were certain that even if the cost of public transport were slashed by

half, they would continue to drive to work. More than 50 per cent said that tolls, fees and charges would be unlikely to stop them from using their vehicles.

It appears that the advance of the car is unstoppable, and while the estimate that traffic in Britain will increase by a third before 2010 seems hard to countenance, the public's attachment to private transport also seems unshakable.

Yet it is simply physically impossible for more cars to be accommodated in cities. There's no room on the roads, there's no room to park and there's precious little air to breathe. A total ban on private cars in city centres, however draconian that may sound, has to be the inevitable consequence of our love-affair with the car.

Zero tolerance is more likely to be successful in getting rid of the cocaine socialists on our roads than it can ever be when called upon to rid us of cocaine. Which means that we'll have no one to blame but ourselves when the likes of David Begg finally get their way. There's only one way of stopping him. Jarvis Cocker must enact his transport policies as Mayor of London.

RIGHT OF REPLY

FELICITY COLLIER



The director of the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering replies to an article by Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

YASMIN POWERFULLY attacks the adoption "fundamentalists" but I am deeply depressed at hearing the same old myths about children in care. There are flaws in the system, and the future of those children who do not have a settled family life is bleak – but really, "children languishing in state institutions"?

Almost all children in care are living with genuine carers who open their homes and hearts to children whose lives are temporarily in turmoil but who with support and hard work will return home.

As for "infants in institutions"? Just find me one. The number will be minute; 73 per cent of all children in care return home within a year, most within six weeks. The problems that led to their admission will be family crises – not intractable problems but ones related to poverty and disadvantage which can be tackled with financial and social support.

There is a statistically small but important group of small children for whom a return to their birth family is unrealistic and often unsafe. There is no evidence that these are the children of teenage mothers – indeed the leap to this conclusion is based on anecdote and prejudice. There are mothers unable to cope but there are also families who abuse and neglect their children. Social workers must be able to identify these children in order to allow them the opportunity of a secure family.

Adoption has changed beyond recognition – who would have thought 30 years ago that we would find adoptive parents for disabled children and groups of siblings?

I would welcome debate about the proper place for adoption. Critical to the debate must be the interests of the children, and not the emphasis on "good parents who cannot get any babies to adopt".

A vital tale of good and evil

WE ASK only why bad things happen, not why good ones do. Volumes are written about the causes of war, disease and despair; no one asks about the causes of peace, health and happiness. Yet surely these are much more elusive.

The same is true of moral good and evil. In times of disaster, people are not prepared for the redness in tooth and jaw of human nature. Some of the greatest books of our century, such as those by Primo Levi, are anguished meditations on how its evils were possible. Brave writers such as Gitta Sereny take up that bafflement, and ask how an ordinary man like Franz Stangl, or a child like Mary Bell, could have committed such horrifying crimes.

Yet extreme good is as rare as extreme evil, although this, too, is rarely noticed. I cannot think of another book that asks the obverse of the Sereny question. What makes someone want to



FRIDAY BOOK

**THE GOOD LISTENER:
HELEN BAMBER, A LIFE
AGAINST CRUELTY**

BY NEIL BELTON, WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON, £18.99

do extreme good? That is what Neil Belton's book does, which makes it most unusual and most valuable.

The Good Listener not only asks the question but also answers it, very convincingly, about Helen Bamber. She was born in London in 1925. Her paternal grandparents, who may have been illegal immigrants, had come to England 30 years before, after wanderings from Poland to America and back. Her father, Louis, recalled pogroms in an east European childhood, which may or may not have been real.

However it happened, Louis was infected with a fearfulness, a sense of menace that destroyed his life and nearly destroyed his daughter's.

From the moment that he read *Mein Kampf* he believed every word of Hitler's threats to the Jews. He became obsessed with the horrors of war and extermination even before they happened. He was a visionary overwhelmed by his vision. He wrote about it endlessly, but privately, and talked about it endlessly to his only child. From the time she was nine or ten, Helen was afraid of a Nazi invasion.

Her mother, a conventional, fun-loving woman, was driven to extremes of frivolity by his depression. Louis's parents and brothers never mentioned the past, but suffered from it equally. Helen was a child without a childhood: peacemaker, negotiator, listener. And so she would remain. She took on her father's burden – but was determined not to let it crush her. He wanted to change everything, could change nothing, and succumbed to despair. She resolved "to work with some, instead of despairing about them all".

In 1945 she went to Belson with the Jewish Relief Fund. For several years she worked with children from the camps – the "Boys" of Martin Gilbert's recent book, about whom we get a grimmer but more touching picture here. She married and had two sons.

She became involved with a campaigner against cruelty in medicine, Maurice Pappworth – the greatest influence on her after her father. Soon after its founding in 1961, she joined Amnesty International. In the Seventies,

in particular because of Chile, she began to concentrate on cases of torture. In 1985, she and her co-workers set up the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, a splendid organisation about whose daily work it is almost impossible to read.

This is an essential story, well and sensitively told. There are difficulties: Belton is honest about the cost to Bamber's own marriage and children – a vital part of the question about doing extreme good. But the Bambers are all still alive; it is not possible, therefore, to be as open as we need. To me, at least, the fascination and importance of this book lie in its question – in effect, its first half.

Perhaps all biography suffers from this problem: that the journey, not the arrival, matters. Belton tells us some of Bamber's worst cases instead, and the problems multiply. We lose sight of Bamber altogether, so that the second half is suddenly like a different book. The writing sometimes strains for effect – which is natural in such an incommunicable subject as torture but, like so much that comes naturally in unnatural situations, wrong. Worst of all, in reading about torture there is no appropriate response. Your emotion is useless, like Helen's father's. So put it to use instead.

When you have read about James Mubiru or "Mehmet", both of whom had been grossly tortured yet had to fight for years to have their asylum applications accepted, you will surely agree with the Archbishop of Canterbury that we should be more humane to the stranger at our door. Even so-called "economic migrants" are not criminals but the poor of the earth, who merely wish to work. To them, too, we should be more humane. At the very least, we should not lock them up in detention centres or prisons. The new bill on asylum seekers, "Fairer, Faster, Firmer", goes before Parliament soon. Write to your MP and ask him to make sure that it really will be fairer.

CAROLE ANGLIER

FRIDAY POEM

WINTER JASMINE

BY MICHAEL HAMBURGER

For a cold blossoming, less than cold praise:

Under veiled skies, in greyness

Eyes too are veiled,

And invisible almost against

A wall too much haze cast adrift

Nor weighty with fragrance as

Of its white kin

Or winter-white viburnum, honeysuckle,

To an absence of bees

It lavishly opens, displays

All those mock-suns, in vain;

Shines, but for senses dormant

Till acornite

With surprise caps its yellow

That fades now, dies.

Our poems this week come from Michael Hamburger's
Collected Poems 1941-1994 (Anvil Press, £12.95)

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Jerzy Turowicz

JERZY TUROWICZ was for half a century Poland's leading Catholic layman. As veteran chief editor of the respected Krakow weekly *Tygodnik Powszechny* ("Universal Weekly"), he was a powerful figure in Poland's post-war cultural and religious life during the long years of Communist rule. Although a close friend of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, who became Pope John Paul II, his relations with Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński were not always so smooth.

In the post-Communist period he was a critic of some aspects of Polish society and was wary of attempts in the more backward-looking quarters of the Church to re-establish its control over society. He accused the Catholic bishops of wanting to "replace Marxist ideology with Christianity". Turowicz even grew exasperated at his old friend Pope John Paul, who had him thrown off the board of the John Paul II Foundation after Turowicz had run a debate in the paper about whether there should be some exceptions to the Church's ban on abortion.

Turowicz was born in Krakow (then in the Austro-Hungarian empire) in 1912 and studied philosophy at the city's Jagiellonian University, graduating in 1939. He was always passionately devoted to journalism, publishing his first article when he was 18. He became chief editor of the Krakow paper *Głos Narodu* in 1939.

In March 1945 Cardinal Adam Sapieha founded *Tygodnik Powszechny* and Turowicz became chief editor; a post he was to hold for 50 years. The one interruption to his long reign was in the 1950s. Turowicz and his fellow editor Stanislaw Stomma refused to publish an obituary of Stalin in 1953. The Communist authorities used the long-desired opportunity to take the paper away from Turowicz and his support team and hand it to the loyal PAX organisation, led by the Fascist-turned-Communist Boleslaw Piasecki.

In 1956 though, with Gomulka's reforms, there was a slight easing of political control. Leading Znak members - who were Socialists but never Marxists - declared their support for the reforms, which they believed would bring Poland closer to their brand of socialism. Gomulka summoned the group to Warsaw and the paper was restored to Turowicz. The first new issue appeared on Christmas Day 1956. Turowicz also became a leading member of the newly established Catholic Intelligentsia Clubs.

Before 1953 the paper worked in what Turowicz described as "a closed vase", but after 1956 was able to reforge links with the Church in

the rest of the world, sending journalists abroad, participating in international events and receiving foreign papers. Turowicz once set out the three main principles behind the paper: "an explanation of the demands of the Gospel in the social sphere", "an ecclesiology which recognises the links that exist between the Church and the world", and "a universalism which turns its back on all provincialism or narrow nationalism".

Tygodnik Powszechny's survival as an independent Catholic paper in Communist Eastern Europe was unique, and was partly due to Turowicz's delicate skills and partly to the power of the church hierarchy who, with certain qualifications, backed the paper. But Turowicz - who never shied away from sensitive topics - had to cope with constant obstruction from the authorities. The chief problem was getting enough newsprint. After Turowicz's restoration in 1956, circulation rose to 50,000, but would have been far higher had the authorities not restricted the number of copies printed.

There were also constant problems with the censors. From the 1970s on Turowicz refused to publish articles that had been cut. After the declaration of martial law in 1981 blank spaces, filled only with the decree number that authorised government censorship of newspapers, became a common sight. As far back as 1964, Turowicz had signed the famous "Letter of the 34" to Premier Jozef Cyrankiewicz protesting against censorship and limited allocations of paper.

Turowicz's position brought him in close touch with Wojtyla, who returned to Krakow full-time as assistant bishop in 1958 and became archbishop in 1964. The future pope would often drop by at Turowicz's home. The two had long been friends, and Turowicz published a

The future pope would often drop by. Turowicz published articles by Wojtyla and was the first to publish his poems

number of his articles. He was also the first to publish any of Wojtyla's poetry in full (under a pseudonym) in 1950. The future pope had little time for reading, and *Tygodnik Powszechny* was the only paper he claimed to read regularly. Wojtyla entrusted Turowicz with the task of choosing the books he should take to read on holiday. The veteran ed-



Turowicz was sacked for refusing to publish an obituary of Stalin

itor later had the joy of being present in Rome to report the papal election of October 1978 at which his friend became pope.

Krakow - the Catholic intellectual centre of Poland - was to remain Turowicz's home, and he was heavily involved in the city's intellectual life, of which the paper was the cor-

nerstone. A friend once likened Turowicz's office to "a railway station with people dashing in and out on any excuse or none". As well as his paper, the Znak discussion group and monthly journal were based there, along with a vibrant Catholic Intellectuals' Club. The head of the Polish Church, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, was distinctly wary of

the radical lay-led movement, especially when it ventured to criticise the hierarchy. But the group received tacit encouragement from Wojtyla.

Turowicz welcomed the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, which were often slow to take root in Poland. He also supported post-war reconciliation with the Germans as well as seeking a balanced view of Polish-Jewish relations. In the 1980s, as tension between the two groups increased - caused by the film *Shoah* and the siting of a Carmelite convent next to the Auschwitz camp - Turowicz opened his paper to a healthy debate on the troubled relations between the two groups. He joined the Bishops' Committee for Dialogue with Judaism in 1987 and, in 1989, became vice-president of the Polish-Israeli Friendship Society.

Turowicz was proud of the non-exclusivity of the paper: "Through the years," he wrote, "the paper was able to work regularly with many of the best Polish writers, often

far from the orthodoxy of faith and outside the communion of the Church, but attracted by a Catholic journal because they saw it as a place of liberty, tolerance and independence." He prized this non-exclusivity as much in the post-Communist era as he had done under Communist rule.

Turowicz had a happy family life with his long-suffering wife Anna and his three daughters, who had to put up with their home being turned into an extension of the office. His rooms were, said a friend, "so crammed with books and papers that it looked as if the floor would collapse at any moment". Visitors were many: Turowicz, the compulsive journalist, lived and breathed journalism and the Church.

FELIX CORLEY

Jerzy Turowicz, journalist: born Krakow 10 December 1912; chief editor, *Tygodnik Powszechny* 1945-53, 1956-99; married 1938 Anna Gasiorowska (three daughters); died Krakow 27 January 1999.

Gonzalo Torrente Ballester

THE CONTEMPORARY literatures of Spain and Portugal are the liveliest, richest and most inventive in Europe, with their large, enthusiastic readerships and the generous attention of the daily and weekly press unequalled anywhere in a world bamboozled by cultural fashions, by television and Internet trivialities and pop-lyric doodlings.

In Spain, among the public's regular treats are those provided by the multi-page weekly arts section "Babelia" in *El País*, the literary journal *Libros* and the daily serious coverage of books and writers. This is because the Spaniards have a true passion for literature, and take pride in their writers - they love and revere them with an emotional fervour unimaginable in the British literary cliques.

Gonzalo Torrente Ballester, adorably known as "El Señor de las Letras" and a great icon of Spanish literature, frequently appeared in the dailies and weeklies both as a spirited and original contributor and as the well-researched subject of essays, reviews and extended interviews. His obituaries, like those for the poet and artist Joan Brossa who died last month, covered several pages in all the papers, and will be followed by an equally impressive spread of post-funeral memories, assessments and eulogies.

Yet Torrente Ballester was hardly known outside Spain. As far as I know, there are no English translations of his works, and it was only in the last 10 years that he began to be translated into French by the energetic young Provençal publishing house Actes Sud, to the acclamation of critics and readers.

In a prologue to his 1977-82 collected works, he recalls that his first novel, *Javier Marín*, appeared in 1943, one year after another Galician writer, Camilo José Cela, published his first work, the ever-popular *Fuemia de Pascual Duarte*, and one year before Carmen Laforet's nihilist-existentialist *Nada*. The fourth novelist of this remarkable literary generation, Miguel Delibes, had an immediate success in 1947 with his *La sombra del ciprés es alargada* ("The Lengthening Shadow of the Cypress").

Torrente Ballester's novel did not enjoy the immense triumphs of those three brilliant contemporaries. There were two main reasons why such a fine debut should have been totally ignored. It was a piece of fantastical semi-autobiography full of quirky language and esoteric references that found no place in the current literary tradition of earthy realism, and it was rejected even by the small but perceptive public of disabused intellectuals and critics.

It is the tale of a Spanish student living in Paris on a government stipend to the Sorbonne and trying to come to terms with youthful sex, religion and politics. The hero, Marín, decides to join Franco's troops in the Civil War - an attitude conflicting with the general republican sympathies of foreign intellectuals at the time, when the Fascist Phalanx was rising to power.

But the real theme of the book is the inner conflict between scepticism and religious or political beliefs. Under the influence of Joyce, the long narrative is rich in cultural resources, and propounds a parallelism between Marín and Aeneas, Spain and Troy. There is a good deal of "experimental" language, which some critics have compared with Ramón de Valle-Inclán's esperpentos - a sort of uninhibited nonsense that did not go down well with over-serious readers, also put off by the subtitle: "historia de una vida".

All these aspects of the work militated against it, and the author was isolated. The second reason for its failure was the intervention of the bigoted ecclesiastical authorities, who found the book too full of "lascivious images". Torrente Ballester recounts how all copies of the book were impounded by Franco's censors and so could not be distributed. It was the first of the author's attacks by the official humbug of censorship.

In a lecture to student fans, Torrente Ballester declared, many years later, that "the imaginary is quite simply part of reality". The whole of his work rejoices in the light-hearted use of imagination and fantasy, and his extraordinary language distils its peculiar savour from the strong influence of his native Galician, which is now regarded as a language in its own right. Ironically for one who was to suffer censorship and destitution under Franco, he was born in the same town as the Generalissimo, El Ferrol, on Spain's wild north-west coast. Even today, the town is still named, in full, after the Fascist leader's rank: El Ferrol del Caudillo.

Like his hero Marín, after studying law and philosophy at the University of Madrid, he had a passion for history. Politically he was close to the ideals of the Phalanx, which had been formed in Madrid in 1933 by José Antonio Primo de Rivera, and was of Fascist inspiration. But the writer later declared he had been

"temperamentally incapable" of taking part in its activities.

During the Civil War, he was studying in Paris, and reading French authors, Baudelaire and Mallarmé, as well as classic Americans like Poe and Melville. He also discovered Jean-Paul Sartre:

I am almost of the same generation as Sartre. I mention this French author because his experience of history coincides with my own, and above all because I've found in his work the expression of my own thoughts on the subject.

He returned to Spain towards the end of the Thirties as a professor of history. He wrote various unsuccessful works, including *Don Juan* (1963), a very individualistic portrait of the arch-seducer. His great trilogy of life in Galicia during the Republic and at the start of the Civil War, *Los gozos y las sombras* ("Delights and Shadows", 1957-63), found little response, but he became better known through his often savage theatrical criticism.

In 1962 his signing of a tract condemning police repression of striking workers in the mines of the Asturias led to his being excluded from teaching. He left with his already large family (he had 11 children) for the United States, where he accepted the specially created chair of literature at the University of Albany, New York, where he taught from 1965 to 1970.

With the meticulous precision of a dedicated scholar he wrote the false history of an imaginary town, Castroforte del Borella, *Saga/Fuga de J.B.* It is pure comic fantasy, with vibrant ironic undertones, about a town whose rebellious inhabitants, in order to escape from foreign invasion, unite to make their entire town enter into levitation. It was published in 1972, one year before his return to Spain, and finally brought him the wide recognition he deserved. Its success prompted him to write another novel about an imaginary Galician town, *Defne y ensueños* ("Daphne and Dreams", 1982). Jorge Luis Borges admired these literary figments of a nicely bridled fantasy.

Fruit of America, Torrente Ballester produced another splendid comedy, about the lives of campus professors and their infatuations for their own students, *La isla de los jacintos cortados* ("The Island



"El Señor de las Letras"

of Cut Hyacinths"), which came out in 1980. This author who called himself a "false witness" and "a master of misleading trails" tells of an elderly professor who has written a book proving that Napoleon never existed, that he was just a myth dreamed up by Nelson, Metternich and Chateaubriand to spare them the trouble of fighting the French Republic.

His wacky theory is exposed by a younger professor in love with a student, Ariadna, who is fruitlessly pursued by the older professor. It is a weirdly ironic yet fantastic farce. In his preface, the author writes: "I've never felt within me the soul of a reformer, and I long ago stopped being a utopian. What few beliefs I have left I observe with an ironic eye, or at least I try to."

Gonzalo Torrente Ballester inherited from his sea-going father and the environment of El Ferrol a taste for maritime adventures, naval history, islands, maps, dockyards, naval strategy found in most of his works. Such influences are reminiscent of the geographical fantasies of Julien Gracq, whose first novel, *Le Château d'Arpajon* (1938), he must have read as a student in Paris, and whose 1961 masterpiece *Le Rivage des Syrtes* would surely have appealed to him. The grotesque folk tales of Galicia, a region rich in wonderful legends, are also present, mingled with metaphysical considerations, erudite legal procedures and wordplay.

Torrente Ballester wrote: "There is within me an inexplicable force that makes me invent whole worlds and populations." We saw him doing just that on all the Spanish (and particularly Galician) television channels, as he laboured over an old-fashioned typewriter in Salamanca - real writers never use word processors!

JAMES KIRKPUP

Gonzalo Torrente Ballester, writer: born El Ferrol del Caudillo, Spain 13 June 1910; twice married (11 children); died Salamanca 27 January 1999.

Buzz Kulik

BUZZ KULIK was one of the most successful directors in television - he made *Brian's Song*, considered one of the best television movies ever - but fared less well on the big screen, perhaps because his work was proficient rather than distinctive.

With the demise of the studio system in the Sixties, television became the haven for the sort of journeyman craftsmen who were once the backbone of the industry, and though Kulik made some good films (*The Warning Shot*, *Riot*), he rarely imposed a notable style or personality on his work. His television work, though, both on series episodes and TV movies, won considerable acclaim. *Brian's Song* winning the Emmy award as the outstanding single programme of 1971 plus an award for Kulik from the Directors' Guild of America.

Born Seymour Kulik in Kearney, New Jersey, in 1922, he served in the army during the Second World War, then worked in the mailroom of the large advertising agency J. Walter Thompson. Spotting a notice requesting directors for the young medium of television, he applied and began to direct advertisements. In 1947 he was directing the cameras filming games at Yankee Stadium, then moved to drama, directing live episodes of such television anthology series as *Lux Video Theatre* and *Playhouse 90*.

Moving to CBS in 1956, he directed episodes of the acclaimed series *You Are There*, and later worked on such shows as *Perry Mason*, *The Defenders* and *Twilight Zone*. Kulik received his first Emmy nomination with an episode of *Dr Kildare* called *Shining Image*, and a second in 1975 for the movie *Babe*, starring Susan Clark as Babe Didrikson, the Olympic track and field medalist who turned professional golfer. In 1970 he won the Emmy for his direction of *A Storm in Summer*, starring Peter Ustinov.

Kulik's first cinema film, *The Explosive Generation* (1961), like many



Kulik, left, directing Jim Brown in *Riot* (1969). The film - criticised for its violence - was made in the Arizona State Penitentiary

films of its period, was aimed specifically at the teenage market with its story, based on fact, of a high-school teacher (William Shatner) sacked for teaching sex education. The director's next, *The Yellow Canary* (1963), was an ill-advised attempt by the pop star Pat Boone to shed his clean-cut image by playing a self-serving and generally unpleasant singer whose child is kidnapped.

Neither Boone nor thriller fans liked the film any more than the

critics did, but a later thriller, *The Warning Shot* (1967), is probably Kulik's best film, an intriguing mystery in which a policeman (David Janssen) apparently kills an unarmed man and meets a colourful bunch of characters amidst considerable mayhem in his search for the truth. With a good script and a fine supporting cast, including Lillian Gish, Walter Pidgeon, George Grizzard, Joan Collins, Eleanor Parker and George Sanders, Kulik's

no-frills direction served the material well.

Villa Rides (1968) is probably the film that stifled Kulik's cinema career. Given a big budget, a cast headed by Yul Brynner (with a halpice) and Robert Mitchum, and a script by Sam Peckinpah and Robert Towne, it should have been a fine adventure yarn, but despite some spectacular aerial shots of battling armies it emerged as unfocused, sprawling and, despite lots of violent action,

somewhat dull. The *New York Daily News*, commenting on Mitchum's sleepy performance, added, "One can't really blame Mitchum for dozing off. This is perhaps one of the most tiresome action movies on record."

Kulik fared better with the modest *Riot* (1969), filmed in the Arizona State Penitentiary, though the film's excessive violence was criticised - it was suggested that the director was making the most of his freedom from the blander restrictions of television drama. His infrequent later movies included the Burt Reynolds thriller *Shamus* (1972) and Steve McQueen's final film, the disappointing *Hunter* (1980).

It was television, though, that found the director at his best, and *Brian's Song* (1971), based on the true story of the friendship between two football players, one of whom is dying of cancer, received so much acclaim (the critic Leonard Maltin calls it "a milestone of excellence in made-for-TV movies") that it became one of the few television films subsequently to achieve a cinema release. Later in the year, its victory at the Emmy ceremonies was greeted by a sustained cheer from the audience.

Kulik directed several mini-series including the first ever, *Vanished* (1970), plus *From Here to Eternity* (1979) and *Kane and Abel* (1985). He also directed an excellent account of a true crime, *The Lindbergh Kidnapping Case* (1976), with a fine performance by Anthony Hopkins as the kidnapper Bruno Hauptmann, and another powerful true story, *Kill Me If You Can* (1977), an anti-capital-punishment depiction of the 12 years the condemned Caryl Chessman spent on San Quentin's death row before being executed.

TOM VALLANCE

Seymour ("Buzz") Kulik, film and television director: born Kearney, New Jersey 1922; married (one son, one daughter); died Los Angeles 13 January 1999.

Walter Birks



IF WALTER Birks had followed his pre-war calling he would have died a Cathar pope, leader of the heretical religious sect based at the ruined castle of Montségur in the foothills of the French Pyrenees.

He was anointed as the chosen one in 1938 by the Cathar movement's then leader Antonin Gadal, but Birks's subsequent spiritual experiences while serving in the Middle East during the Second World War led him to rethink his vocation. He later became an authority on the so-called "treasure of Montségur" and published a book on the history of Catharism.

After studying history at Merton College, Oxford, in the early 1930s, Birks fell in with a crowd who were involved in spiritualist activities. He went to lectures given by the occultist Dion Fortune and was inspired to devote his life to the supernatural. He later said: "She was a marvellous speaker and a whole new world opened up to me - so I thought at the time, I was immensely impressed and joined an occult order."

During a seance he was given instructions from the White Eagle Lodge, a spiritualist circle, to go to the Pyrenees and recover traces of a brotherhood: "I was teaching at a school in Wales, but was instructed by the Order to resign because a great job was planned for me." There he met Gadal, successor to Adolphe Garrigou (1802-1897), the Cathar patriarch who had kept the flame of the sect alive during the 19th century. Birks wrote in his diary: "I was greeted by Antonin Gadal who told me that he had been awaiting my arrival in the year of the Grail."

Although it has its roots in much older religious movements, Catharism broke away from the Catholic Church during the 12th century. Initially Cathars were tolerated, but when a deputation went to Rome in 1179 to seek recognition, its members were forbidden to preach. Similar revolts against the established church burned out rapidly, but the movement in the South of France gave the papacy cause for concern. Indeed, by the end of the 12th century Catharism had virtually displaced the Church of Rome as the recognised vehicle of Christian revelation throughout the Languedoc.

It claimed to be nothing less than the true Church of Christ, its orders handed down in unbroken succession from the Apostles. Furthermore, the Cathars reputedly held great treasures within their citadel base of Montségur at Ussat-les-Bains, in the valley of the Arège.

Catharism was a strange and heterodox creed which rejected sub-

stantial parts of both the Old and the New Testaments, while condemning the Pope, priests and sacraments alike. Given the established Church's firm application of law during the Middle Ages, an unholy end was inevitable. Pope Innocent IV felt obliged to act. A series of missions, denunciations, excommunications and inquisitions failed to make any impact. And so, on 16

March 1244, following a 10-month siege, more than 200 Cathars were taken from the castle of Montségur and burned alive in the fields below. But they went to their deaths in the knowledge that their treasure had been smuggled safely out by just four of their number who had scaled sheer cliff faces in the dead of night.

During 1937 and 1938 Birks explored the castle and the surrounding caves which had become holy sites. He also

spoke with those who knew of the Cathars. Gadal was himself an inspiring speaker and the power of his oratory coupled with his utter sincerity convinced Birks that Gadal possessed hidden spiritual truths. Furthermore, Gadal was only too willing to share these truths with the eager scholar.

Birks settled in happily, assisting Gadal in his work and acting as his amanuensis. Gadal in turn enabled Birks to become manager of both the local spas and the nearby Grand Hôtel des Bains.

"There has been masses of occult nonsense written about Cathars. I believed it all those years ago but now know it is a lot of hooey"

Meanwhile, war in Europe was on the horizon. Returning home, Birks was commissioned into the British Security Mission in Syria. For three years he was Head of Mission in Latakia, a particularly sensitive area close to the Turkish border. There, a friendship with a representative of the local Nossairi religion led him to rethink his spiritual views. He later wrote: "It was there, high in the Nossairi mountains, under the clear stars, that I finally shed the fantasies of occultism and realised the true nature of the Cathar treasure."

After the war Birks returned to Ussat-les-Bains where he and Gadal attempted to revive the fortunes of the spa, but post-war austerity did not encourage tourism and in 1948 the lease was surrendered. It was during a series of subsequent teaching posts in Cairo, Istanbul and Tripoli that Birks began to write down his many thoughts on Catharism.

In 1987 - almost 20 years after his retirement from teaching - he finally published his magnum opus on the subject. It was a joint publication with the writer Robert Gilbert, entitled *The Treasure of Montségur*, and opened up for the first time the truth about the Cathars and their secret treasure, a treasure that was more spiritual than material.

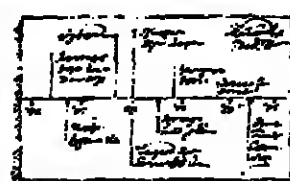
As Birks pointed out in the book, the four who escaped death by fire in 1244 had such a difficult route out of the castle they certainly could not have hauled material possessions. "All the natural treasure like gold had long gone. And going down a steep hill on ropes meant that they could not have carried anything with them. If all the Cathars had been exterminated their claim would have died with them."

Birks retired to a quiet flat in a residential quarter of Bath. He lectured in history and religion at the city's Technical College and was later a tourist guide for the Mayor of Bath's Corps of Honorary Guides, where his erudition and knowledge of languages came in useful.

By the end of his life Birks viewed the Cathars with barely disguised contempt: "There has been masses of occult nonsense written about Cathars. I believed it all those years ago but now know it is a lot of hooey. Montségur is rather like Glastonbury. It attracts all the weirdies and heards looking for treasure. They all think they know the answer, but the occult is a lot of baloney."

TIM BULLAMORE

Walter Newbigging Birks, teacher and religious leader: born Middlesex, 25 January 1912; MBE 1968; died Bath, 25 January 1999.



HISTORICAL NOTES

RAYMOND LAMONT-BROWN

A perfect and popular royal mistress

"WHERE'S ALICE?" the crowds would shout if Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, appeared in London's theatre-land without the Hon Mrs George Keppel in his entourage. A leader of the fashionable set and one of the best-known society hostesses of the Edwardian era, Alice Keppel entertained most of the influential members of the political elite and the diplomatic and civil service of her day. She was one of the readily recognised royal mistresses of any age. Keppel unashamedly used her access to the monarch to further her own ends, and became a well-consulted link between sovereign and establishment.

The youngest daughter of a retired admiral and Scottish MP the 30-year-old Alice Keppel met the 57-year-old Prince of Wales in 1893, and as Sir Philip Magnus-Alcroft was to note in his biography of Edward "an understanding" was formed between them "almost overnight". Alice became Edward's mistress for the rest of his life. She was perfect for the job. She was a royal confidante who knew not to gossip about what she heard in the inner royal circle. She had great skill in mollifying her royal lover, whose temper was uncertain and his patience thin. She understood his character and his physical and emotional needs, and helped calm him down when he might say unguarded things about foreign poli-

cy or domestic affairs in his kingdom. She was able to turn the often bored, petulant, aggressive, immature, selfish and rude monarch into the genial, tolerant and witty sovereign that his people loved.

Through her royal associations, Alice became a rich woman, the king encouraging his rich friends like Sir Ernest Cassel to help her build funds that would keep her social position secure. Yet Alice's society skills were not cloudless. She was not welcome at certain houses like that of the Duke of Norfolk at Arundel, or the Duke of Portland at Welbeck Abbey; and William Waldorf Astor stopped inviting her to Cliveden when, as he said, Alice "had sunk to the level of a public mistress". Others frowned on what they saw as her rapaciousness. Virginia Woolf described Alice as an "old grasper: whose fists had been in the moneybags these 50 years".

Queen Alexandra accepted Alice Keppel as her husband's royal mistress, in a long line of such. In time though, the lonely, neglected Queen became depressed and her congenial deafness caused her to withdraw from society functions; this was exacerbated by her irritation at the constant presence of Alice at the King's shoulder on photographs of country-house weekends. Alexandra refused to go with her husband to his favourite haunts in and around Biarritz. So Alice went, with her children

Violet and Sonia, every year around March. Alice's progress through France was enjoyed in some grandeur as functionaries at border and station treated her with the respect and dignity the French had always shown royal mistresses. Only at Biarritz could Alice and the King act as husband and wife.

No royal mistress was devastated as Alice was at the death of King Edward VII in 1910. Severely depressed, she informed her society friends of the scene at the dying King's bedside. Her words were pure fantasy. Alice averred that Queen Alexandra had summoned her, and when Alice left, the sobbing Queen clung to her arm promising that the Royal Family would look after her. The King's physician, Sir James Reid, and his private secretary, Francis Knollys, told a different story. The King had barely recognised her and Alice had been ushered from his bedside in a state of hysterics. Yet Alice's version persisted for decades.

Alice Keppel remains in history as the perfect royal mistress. In an age when the House of Lords is to be crammed with "people's peers" she might have earned the position of "People's Mistress".

Raymond Lamont-Brown is the author of *Edward VII's Last Loves: Alice Keppel & Agnes Keyser* (Sutton Publishing, £19.99)

Gabor Carelli

THE HUNGARIAN-BORN tenor Gabor Carelli is assured of immortality in the world of opera, because he sang the small role of Dr Calus in the NBC Symphony broadcast of Verdi's *Falstaff*, conducted by Arturo Toscanini in 1951. This performance was recorded and reissued many times as technology advanced, and is currently available on CD.

Carelli appeared at the Metropolitan Opera for nearly a quarter of a century, and though he sang small roles for the most part, he formed an integral cog in the great machine required to keep a major opera house functioning smoothly.

Born in Budapest, Carelli studied Law at the University of Budapest, and gained his degree. Meanwhile he

also studied singing at the Franz Liszt Academy, and finally decided on singing rather than law as a profession. He went to Italy to study further with the great tenor Beniamino Gigli in Rome, and after two years he made his debut as Rodolfo in *La Bohème* at Florence. He sang in various Italian opera houses, then in 1939 he went to the United States. For several years he toured the country with travelling operatic companies, and also sang with many of the American orchestras in works such as the Verdi *Requiem*, Puccini's *Messa da Gloria* and Kodály's *Psalms Hungaricus*.

In 1951 Carelli made his debut at the Met as Don Curzio, the stuttering lawyer in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*.

Over the next 23 seasons he sang more than a thousand performances there of 59 roles in 39 operas. Many of these were Italian roles, such as Dr Calus in *Falstaff*; Mozart's Don Basilio, the Judge in Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera*, or Pong in Puccini's *Turandot*, but he also took on parts in the German repertoire, as a waiter in Richard Strauss's *Arabella*, the First Priest in *Die Zauberkiste*, and many others.

Occasionally Carelli was given some performances of a major role, as in 1957 when he sang Tamino in *Die Zauberkiste*, receiving an excellent notice from the renowned New York Times critic Harold Schomberg.

As well as the famous Toscanini recording of *Falstaff*, Carelli recorded

his usual roles, Don Basilio and Don Curzio, in *Le nozze di Figaro*, the tenor solo in the Verdi *Requiem*, and a role in Haydn's opera *Orlando Paladino*. These recordings reveal a lyrical voice, a stylish technique and, especially in the *Falstaff*, an aptitude for comedy.

In 1964 he joined the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music as a voice teacher. In 1971, to mark the 20th anniversary of his debut at the Met, he was awarded a silver bowl for long service with the company. He retired from singing in 1974, but continued to teach until his death.

ELIZABETH FORBES

Gabor Carelli, tenor: born Budapest 1915; died New York 22 January 1999.

Absolute liability had to be clearly imposed

WHERE A commercial institution wished to impose absolute liability on a member of a profession it should do in clear terms so that the professional could appreciate the extent of the obligation he was accepting.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the bank's appeal against the dismissal of its claim for damages against a firm of solicitors it had retained to obtain a signature on a mortgage.

Mr Dukes and his family company were customers of the bank. The bank increased the limit on the family company's overdraft, in return for which Mr Dukes deposited with the bank the deeds and conveyance of a property owned by his wife. He also deposited a letter of consent which purported to have been signed by Mrs Dukes but which had actually been signed by someone else.

Mr Dukes subsequently used a "desk valuation" of the property to persuade the bank to make him a loan, the security for which was an "all monies" security, which involved recharging the property.

The bank wrote on 18 March 1988 to the defendant firm, who had been nominated by Mr Dukes, retaining them to obtain the signatures of Mr and Mrs Dukes to various documents, including Mrs Dukes's signature to the charge. The charge contained a certificate to be signed by the solicitors, certifying that the contents and purport of the document had been fully explained to Mrs Dukes, and that she had signed it of her own free will.

The documents were returned to the bank apparently

FRIDAY LAW REPORT

29 JANUARY 1999

Midland Bank v Cox McQueen (a firm)
Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Mantell)
26 January 1999

properly completed, with Mrs Dukes's signature having been witnessed by a legal executive of the solicitors. The bank paid the solicitors for their services.

Four and a half years later the bank sought to rely on their charge because Mr Dukes had stopped paying interest, and discovered that the charge had not been signed by Mrs Dukes, but by an impostor who had been introduced by Mr Dukes to the legal executive as his wife.

After an initial attempt to proceed against Mrs Dukes, the bank commenced proceedings against the solicitors and alleged, *inter alia*, non-performance by them of their retainer, on the basis that the terms of the letter of 18 March were unqualified.

Nicholas Stewart QC and Hugh Mercer (Gatesley Waring, Birmingham) for the bank; Alastair Norris QC (Pinsent Curtis) for the solicitors.

Lord Woolf MR said that the question in the instant case was whether the bank had intended to ask for and

whether the solicitors had intended to give a promise to answer for the fraud of the customer even if that fraud could not be detected by exercising all proper care.

The answer to that question had to be no, unless the language used, looked at as a whole, indicated compellingly to the contrary. It was necessary in the present case to concentrate on the primary document, which was the letter of 18 March. Although it instructed the solicitors to obtain the signatures of Mr and Mrs Dukes, and to explain the implications of the mortgage to Mrs Dukes, such obligations were not likely to be absolute: they were better suited to a requirement to exercise a reasonable standard of care.

The court did not feel constrained by the decision in *Zweibner v Mortgage Corporation* (unreported, 18 June 1988), in which the obligation had been to "properly execute" the documents, and in which an undertaking rather than a certificate had been involved. A certificate should not be assumed with an undertaking.

If commercial institutions such as banks wished to impose absolute liability on members of a profession such as solicitors they should do so in clear terms so that the solicitors could appreciate the extent of the obligation they were accepting. Unless the language used in a retainer clearly had that consequence, the courts should not be ready to impose obligations on solicitors which even the most careful solicitor might not be able to meet.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

GAZETTE

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales, Patron, British Film Institute, visits their National Film and Television Archive Conservation Centre at Birkhamstead, Hertfordshire, and presents Sir Paul Getty with a BFI Fellowship, opens the recently restored Spirella Building in Letchworth Garden City; visits Eelstree Film Studios at Borehamwood and opens their new sound stages; and visits the Wheels Motor Project, Stevenage. The Duke of York opens a new swimming pool complex at the Marist School at Sunninghill, Berkshire.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Birks, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in memoriam) are charged at £15.50 a line (VAT incl).

BIRTHDAYS

Dr Robin Alston, bibliographer, 66; Mr Malcolm Binns, concert pianist, 63; Lord Braybrooke, Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, 67; Mr Leslie Brinsmead, composer, 68; Mr Peter Byrne, actor and director, 71; Lord Clyde, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 67; Dr Alec Coppen, neuropsychiatrist, 76; The Right Rev Dom Charles Fitzgerald-Lombard, Abbot of Downside, 58; Mr John Forsythe, actor, 82; Professor Germaine Greer, writer, 60; Lord Gregson, non-executive director, Fairway Group, 75; Professor Frank Hartley, Vice-Chancellor, Cranfield University, 57; Mr Timothy Healy, actor and comedian, 47; Mr Paul Hodder-Williams, publisher, 89; Earl Junkin, actor and script-writer, 69; Mr Sean Kerly, hockey player, 38; Miss Margaret Laird, third Church Estates Commissioner, 66; Lord Lane of Horsell, chartered accountant and company chairman, 74; Mr Henry

Lewis, former deputy chairman, Berisford International, 73; Mr Victor Matur, actor, 84; Mr Michael Mavor, Head Master, Rugby School, 52; Sir Richard Needham, former MP, 57; Mr James Nicholson, MBE 54; Miss Katharine Ross, actress, 56; Mr Tom Selleck, actor, 54; Mr Raman Subba Row, former chairman, Test and County Cricket Board, 67; Mr Brian Trubshaw, former test pilot, 75.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Lucy Hutchinson, biographer, 1620; Thomas Paine, writer and reformer, 1737; Sir Ebenezer Howard, garden cities originator, 1850; Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, playwright, 1860; Frederick Delius, composer, 1862; Sir William Rothenstein, artist, 1872; W.C. Fields (William Claude Dukinfield), comedian, 1880. Deaths: King George III, 1820; Edward Lear, landscape painter and writer, 1899; Douglas, first Earl Haig, field marshal,

1928; Henry Louis Mencken, writer, author of *The American Language*, 1956; Angela Margaret Thirkell, novelist, 1961; Robert Lee Frost, poet, 1963; Alan Ladd, actor, 1964; Jimmy (James Francis) Durante, comedian, 1980. On this day: Greenwich Mean Time was adopted in Scotland, 1848; the marriage of Napoleon III and Eugénie de Montijo took place at the Tuileries, Paris, 1853; the Victoria Cross was founded, 1856; *Desert Island Discs* was first broadcast, 1942.

Today is the Feast Day of St Gildas the Wise, St Sabinian of Troyes and St Sulpicius "Severus".

LECTURES

Tate Gallery: Sir John Mortley, "Surrealism as Shell Shock: the impact of war on Surrealism", 1pm. Centre for Regional Studies, Cambridge: Dr Bill Stevenson, "Dissenters in Cambridgeshire 1640-1725 and their Place in Society", 6.30pm.

DINNERS

European-Atlantic Group: Professor Otmar Issing, European Central Bank in Frankfurt, was the guest speaker at the European-Atlantic Group House of Commons meeting held yesterday. He spoke on "The First Four Weeks of the Euro". Lord Dahrendorf, President of the Dinner-Discussion which followed at St Ermin's Hotel, London SW1. Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian Oswald and Sir Michael Falliser also spoke.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 4.29pm. United Synagogue: 0181-238 8888. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-492 2282. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-500 1662. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-449 4741. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-238 2372. New London Synagogue: 0181-228 1825.

NO SOONER have we wondered whether Monty Python's US tour will contain the 1874 character Mrs Niggerbaiter than comes a report that the new mayor of Washington, David Howard, has resigned because he referred to a fund as being *niggardly*. Those in earshot were offended, others telephoned to protest -

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
niggardly, adj.

all of them ignorant, unlike Mr Howard. Samuel Johnson noted that it is derived from the Icelandic *niggr*, a miser, and cites Shake-

speare and Sidney ("so sluttish a vice"). The OED, more cautious in its etymology (obscure), offers such meanings as narrow and a false bottom.

Nigger is another, complex matter, and Mr Howard's fate reminds us that Orwell's *Politics and the English Language* was his most prescient writing.

There's nowt so queer as blokes

ONE OF the most heart-warming changes in society over the past 20 years has been in the attitudes towards gays. The ignorance of the Seventies was summed up by the stock line of lads in pubs if anyone vaguely, slightly, in any way camp walked through the door: "Uh oh, watch yourselves, backs against the wall."

What do blokes who say this imagine? Do they honestly think that gay men are likely to go into a pub and think "Aha, they're off their guard - I'll screw the lot of them?"

Back then there was no Julian Clary, or Chris Smith or Ellen or Barrymore or George Michael. And now it no longer shocks, to anything like the same degree, when a club on a main road in Brighton gyrates under the name "Love Muscle".

"You do realise it's gay night," you're warned as you buy your ticket. As if anyone's likely to have got that far, and say: "Oh, I wondered why the queue was full of men in vests, with their arms around each other. And why there's a huge screen by the door, showing a naked man writhing on a mattress. So this

isn't line-dancing night, then?"

How could this place be categorised, apart from gay? To earn the title of rave, a club has to be sweaty and packed, with no room for any type of dancing apart from wriggling on the spot and waving arms in the air, as if you're milking an exceptionally tall cow. If Gene Kelly had gone to a rave, he'd have had to abandon any hopes of walking up walls or gliding over settees, and opt for the tall cow dance. (Though a tab of Ecstasy is the only plausible explanation for anyone going "Wow, it's raining" and dancing in puddles.)

But once a few gaps appear on the dancefloor, the mood switches from the ebullience of a rave to the self-consciousness and doubt of a disco, as there are now enough spaces for it to be evident that you're a crap dancer. And this is what "Love Muscle" seemed to be: an enormous gay version of a Seventies school disco. The music could fool you into thinking it's modern, but was mostly tunes from the Seventies under a rapid beat. There was Donna Summer, The Sweet, Village People, anything from

that era, until you wondered whether there'd be drum'n'bass versions of Aled Jones and the theme tune from *On The Buses*.

The event is less outrageous than a typical heterosexual nightclub, with names like "Sinatras". No one staggers drunkenly backwards spraying lager and demolishing tables. If you brush past someone, they smile at you, but don't hitch their shoulders up and quip "All right mate, watch it". In the toilets, everyone forms an orderly queue, none of the men swearing that they're gonna have that bastard, and no women are being consoled by their friends as they alternate between sobbing uncontrollably and honking Hooch into a basin.

Some of the men remove their tops, but that's about it for scandal. Although, as with any disco, behind the thumping rhythms and apparent jollity, soap-opera sagas are rapidly unfolding. From the balcony, 500 dancers appear remarkably similar, but some will be itching with anticipation, some goosy with affection, and others about to have a screaming row

MARK STEEL



ON
LOCATION

punctuated with yells of "WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU. DID YOU SAY YOU DID OR DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE ME? HANG ON, WAIT TILL THE RECORD ENDS."

So a special bar, packed and steaming, is situated at one side for chatting purposes. I bought a drink there and thought: "Hrm, the problem with standing here alone is someone will start chatting me up, and I'll have to explain that I'm heterosexual and I'm doing a newspaper article and it will all get confusing..." Ten minutes later,

still in the same spot I was thinking "Oy. What's wrong with me, then?"

Maybe it was my reaction to the artistic high point of the evening, when thousands of balloons were released from the ceiling and within moments they'd all been burst. The correct response, it seemed, was to jump on as many balloons as possible, going "wheeee". Whereas I stood there, thinking: "Oh no, someone must have spent all day blowing them up. Well, at least save some for taking home."

Gay scene culture is not always easy to grasp. For example, I've never understood why certain women become gay icons. Why Xena the Warrior Princess and Kylie Minogue? Why not Gloria Hunniford or Margaret Beckett?

But there was one change in the gay scene that even I could spot. In the Seventies, it was divided between those that wanted to actively oppose the "backs against the wall" mentality, and those that preferred to turn a cheek, have a good time and just hope. The

political faction, aware that gays weren't alone in being trodden on, became drawn into a series of other battles. They became a key part of anti-racist campaigns, and the 1984 Gay Pride march was led by striking miners.

The period began with the Gay Liberation Front disrupting an anti-gay rally, organised by The Festival of Light and fronted by Cliff Richard and Mary Whitehouse, by releasing thousands of mice into the audience. It continued into the Eighties, with attempts to counter scapegoating of gays for Aids. Throughout that time, almost every gay club exhibited at least a little resistance, even if it was just a few posters on walls, and a pile of campaigning newspapers by the door.

Gay discos would do better to revive that era's sense of resistance, rather than its music. Instead there were no posters, and the only paper on offer was *Boyz*, a soft-porn rag with an editorial covering the tribulations of approaching 30. Which would be fine, if everything had been won. But despite the advances, equality is still a long way off,

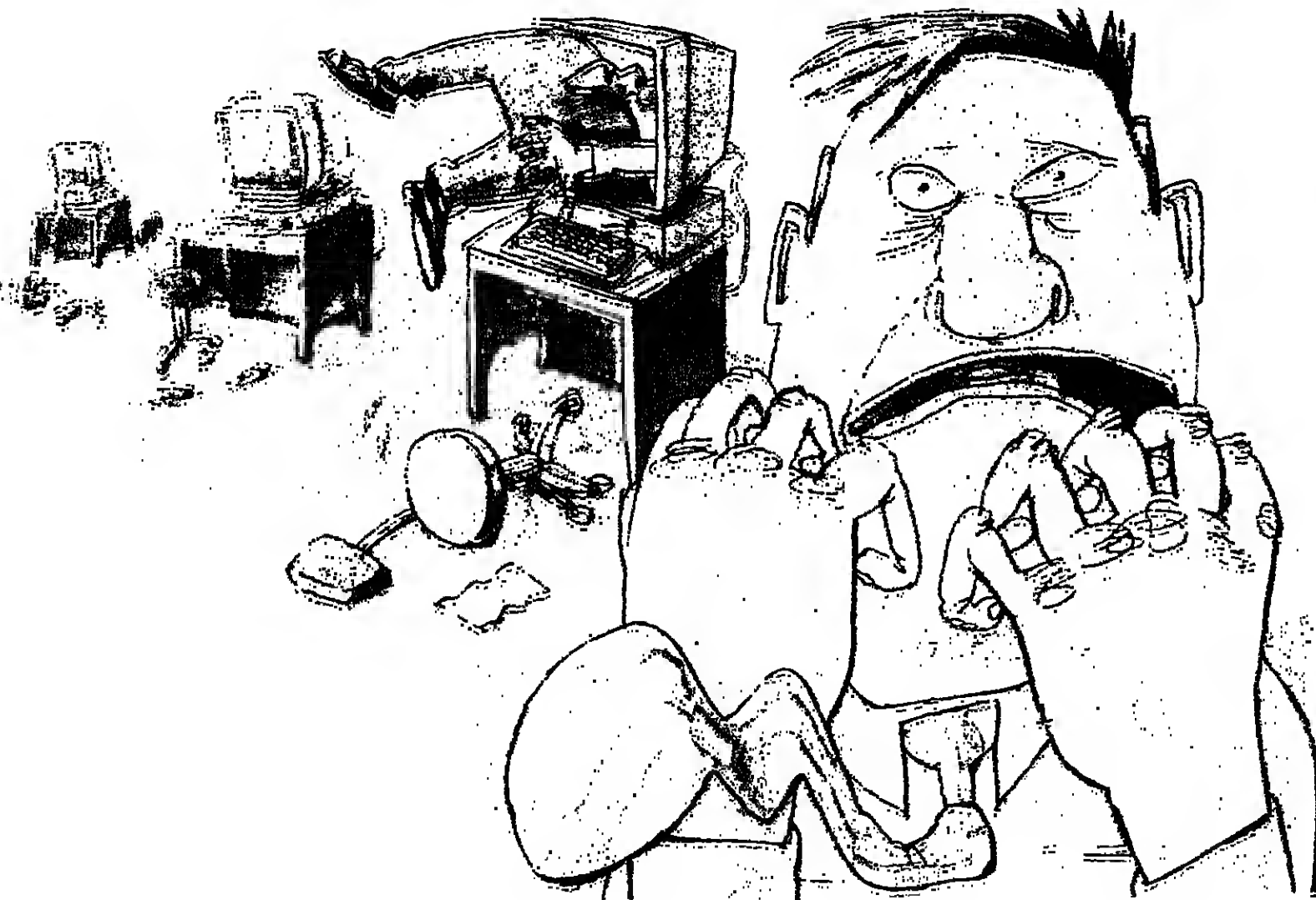
especially for working-class gays outside the major cities. And with the guard down, there's no guarantee that the situation can't go into reverse.

Which would be disastrous for heterosexuals as well as for gays. Because while you're yelling "Backs against the wall", you can never hear stories like this. "Last week," I was told by a man who looked disarmingly innocent, "I got a call from a man who wanted to meet me in a pub. 'Well we met up, and he had a friend. He said he wanted to watch his friend and I wrestle in the nude. I tried to explain that this wasn't a good idea, but he wasn't having it. So we got back to his place, his friend and I stripped off, and I hurried the friend straight against the wall and knocked him out. 'Is that it?' he said. 'I tried to tell you but you weren't listening. I'm a black-belt in Judo, you see.' So it was all a bit of a failure and I went home."

How much more impressive than a typical heterosexual failure: "I asked her in for a coffee, but she said she had to go home and feed her cat."

The day East Timor was deleted

Cyberspace is turning nasty - and this time it's political. The virtual world is under attack by terrorist hackers. By Charles Arthur



East Timor disappeared from the map the other day. The removal was not physical: there was no tsunami or undersea volcano to swallow up the island, which has been illegally occupied by the Indonesian government since 1975.

Its disappearance was prompted by an invisible flood of electronic pulses which poured down a small office in Dublin, Ireland. "I got a yell from the other room. 'Unplug now' and I ran down the stairs and unplugged it from the wall, no ifs or buts," recalls John Plunkett, a systems administrator at Connect Ireland, an Internet service provider.

From that moment, anyone trying to e-mail somebody with an East Timor address, or access one of the country's Web pages, would have faced a blank screen. It was one of the most effective cyber-terrorism attacks on record: a whole country was suddenly cut off from the outside cyberworld.

Many countries would see this kind of co-ordinated attack as a mere foreshadowing of what could be on the way. With society so interconnected, so reliant on multiple sources of media, the best way to strike at a country is to sabotage its lines of communication. The most effective attack is the one your enemy does not know is coming, does not even know has occurred. Last March Louis Freeh, the director of the FBI, asked a Senate committee for increased funding to cover "several priority initiatives, including those in the areas of counter-terrorism and cyber-crime". The week before, the US Attorney General Janet Reno said: "Our systems are more vulnerable than ever to attack because of our unprecedented reliance on technology."

Martin Maguire, a director at Connect Ireland, knew that in setting up a "virtual" East Timor on his company's computers he was taking some risks. "It's a virtual country in that in political terms, it is not allowed to exist in the real world by the Indonesian government - they just call it part of Indonesia - so its only sovereignty is in cyberspace."

On 7 December 1997, the 22nd anniversary of the island's invasion, he registered his company as the "top level domain" for East Timor (their machines acted like a directory enquiries database for any Internet computer looking to connect to an East Timorese), with the jailed resistance leader Xanana Gusmao as its official administrator. Gusmao's inclusion was necessary because he is based in East Timor, as the international rules for setting up those domains requires.

From then on, Maguire and his team vetted applications from anyone who wanted to set up a Web page with the suffix

".tp" (the allotted abbreviation of Timorese Internet addresses, just as ".uk" denotes British people and organisations).

That was not popular with the Indonesian authorities: a spokesman for the Indonesian embassy in London said: "The handover of the domain to the government of East Timor is beyond imagination, since the government of East Timor will not exist."

Four months later the hacking attacks began. The first ones were clumsy. But they grew increasingly sophisticated until last week they reached a level where the hackers could have altered the crucial database: "Free East Timor" page might instead have been directed to "Why Indonesia Was Right To Invade". There would be no way for the casual surfer to know that their computer had been subverted.

"It was so well organised, so deliberate and so skilful that whoever was doing it must be getting paid," said Mr Maguire.

The attack has been repelled for now, but were it not for careful monitoring of systems, East

but it affects you profoundly, every day. In the virtual world, power does not depend on how big you are physically; it depends on how much notice people take of you, and how much attention you can force them to pay. The virtual world of East Timor may reside in a Dublin computer. You can also perform cyber-terrorism against people, companies, entire classes of software (such as Microsoft's operating systems). It doesn't take a gun or physical training. An eager hacker with a good supply of fizzy drinks and an Internet connection can bring any of the above to their knees - virtually speaking (and physically, if they end up having to unplug their computer).

Yet sometimes, becoming a virtual country offers real benefits. Tonga, for example, has the fortuitous suffix of ".to". And with English still the dominant language on the Web, that attracted the attention of companies eager to have a snappy address: would a travel agent be interested by the address "www.go.to/australia" or "www.go.to/japan"? For Tonga, with a gross domestic product of only about £120m, the £100 registration fee for each new domain in its corner of cyberspace would come in handy.

The Net is also becoming a more political place - where revolutionary groups decide who will host their Web page almost before they decide when to start the revolution, and hackers change the contents of political parties' Web pages (as happened to both the Tories and Labour at the last election).

Harmless stuff? Not necessarily. The other day California saw its first court case brought under a "cyberstalker" law that came into force on 1 January. The prosecution claims that after a woman rejected his physical advances, Gary Dellapenta placed an ad under her name on a bulletin board, claiming she was seeking male partners to help her live out a rape fantasy. Those who responded (and you must wonder about their mental state) were sent her physical description, address and details of her home alarm. Dellapenta has pleaded not guilty. But the fact that such a law has been deemed necessary shows how the virtual world is lapping over into our physical one.

The more immediate worries are in the real world. Connect Ireland knows a little about that; it has tweaked the nose of a government which has (as a representative admitted on TV recently) engaged in torture and rape. That is hardly something to be done lightly. About a year ago, Mr Maguire recalls, he got "a couple of phone calls from, shall I say, an Eastern gentleman. They weren't very nice."

Was he worried? He chuckles. "I said look, pal, you can't worry me. I'm Irish. I've been terrorised by professionals." He chuckles again.

CLASSIFIED

Public Notices

Notice of the Amendment to Custodian Fee of The Thailand Fund

To: Unitholders of The Thailand Fund

The Thai Securities and Exchange Commission has approved the reduction of the Custodian Fee of the Thailand Fund (the "Fund") from 0.1% to 0.08% per annum of the Net Asset Value of the Fund, effective January 30th, 1999.

Announced on January 29th, 1999.

The Mutual Fund Public Company Limited, Bor.Mor.Jor.211
Manager of the Thailand Fund

Public Notices

Legal Notices

No. 007449
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
MOULINEX SWAN HOLDINGS
LIMITED

AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 31 December, 1998 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £37,600,000 divided into 37,600,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each to £1,000,000 divided into 1,000,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 10th day of February 1999.

Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same. Dated this 25th day of January 1999.

George Green & Co
195 High Street,
Crutley Heath,
West Midlands
B64 5HW
RE: WGG
Solicitors for the above-named Company

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
DEBTOR'S PETITION
IN LIQUIDATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.116 of the Insolvency Rules, 1986 that Stephen Franklin of Pains, Gidley Franklin & Co, a Chartered Accountant, of 20, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, is appointed liquidator of the above-named Company, on 29 January 1999 by the Court.

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The Insolvency Act 1986
SYRATES LIMITED
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 99 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 10th February 1999 at 4.00 pm at the Chartered Accountants, 20, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, for the purpose of considering the proposed reduction of capital of the said Company from £37,600,000 divided into 37,600,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each to £1,000,000 divided into 1,000,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 10th day of February 1999.

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B64 5HW
RE: WGG
Solicitors for the above-named Company

SCIENCE

I think therefore I'm a chimp

Are animals conscious, sentient creatures? Research suggests that some are. By Sanjida O'Connell

Dr Miriam Rothschild had an owl that became so jealous when Rothschild's daughter was born, that the bird would try to attack both her and the child. Animals can often appear to have emotions, to be highly intelligent, motivated and sentient – but are they truly conscious?

Consciousness is a topic long avoided by the scientific community, but it has troubled philosophers for hundreds of years. Each one of us knows that we are conscious but we cannot know what consciousness is like for anyone else. Given the private and subjective nature of human consciousness, it would seem almost impossible to determine whether another species is conscious. But although we can never get inside the head of another creature, science is increasingly developing techniques to understand consciousness.

Stephen Budiansky, the author of *If a Lion Could Talk*, says: "We ought to have an open mind about animal consciousness. But we also have to be sceptical, because we as humans have an almost compulsive tendency to interpret the world as a mirror of our own minds. When we see an animal behaving in an intelligent, flexible fashion we automatically assume that it must have a conscious mind much like ours."

"But it is possible for minds to display highly intelligent processes without these being conscious. Computers certainly do so; and even we perform many tasks that are done completely unconsciously."

A condition known as "blind-sight" may help us understand what it might be like to be fully functioning and aware, but unconscious. "Graham" had an accident when he was eight years old which damaged part of the visual cortex, the section of his brain that processes sight. He is now blind on the right-hand side of his body and, because of the unusual nature of his syndrome, he has become a semi-professional research subject for scientists.

When he is forced to guess the location of objects placed on his blind side, their shape, direction of movement and even their colours, he is nearly always correct. "It's a very bizarre feeling to sit there and be told events are taking place on your right-hand side – as far as I am concerned, nothing at all happens," says Graham.

Graham is unconscious of his sense of sight. His brain has compensated for the damage by processing his vision through an older pathway in the midbrain, which allows his brain to "see" without his having a conscious image in his mind of what he sees. This may be the way animals operate – guessing accurately about what they see, but with no awareness of it. Evidence that this may be the case for some animals comes from brain studies of pigeons and tree shrews, which also process their sight along the same ancient pathway as Graham does.

The situation may be different for bigger-brained animals. In the Seventies Professor Nick Humphrey, of Cambridge University, was working with a monkey that had no visual cortex. Helen was, to all intents and purposes, completely blind.

Humphrey reports: "I had a bunch that there was something going on which might reveal a capacity for sight which even she wasn't aware of. I started working with her, and... a miracle happened. Within a few days, she was beginning to attend to what I was doing. Within a

'The hallmark of consciousness is understanding the mind of another conscious being'

few years, you wouldn't have known that there was anything abnormal about her. Helen had somehow developed an ability to see without being conscious." The nearest analogy for it, he says, is ESP. "You know what's out there, but you don't know how you know it."

It seems that animals that process their vision in the same way as us – via the cortex (and are not brain-damaged) – may well be conscious. We have had a notoriously difficult time trying to define consciousness, but perhaps it may best be understood in two ways. The first is what philosophers refer to as *qualia*. This basically describes how sensations and experiences are perceived by an individual. If some animals do have this kind of consciousness, this is what they will be aware of – the unique experience of being alive, and how the world feels to a particular animal. A philosopher, Thomas Nagel, wrote a seminal paper in the Seventies entitled *What is it Like to Be a Bat?*. He concluded that we can never really understand what it is like to echolocate or

fly in the dark, but what we do know is that there is *something* that it is like to be a bat.

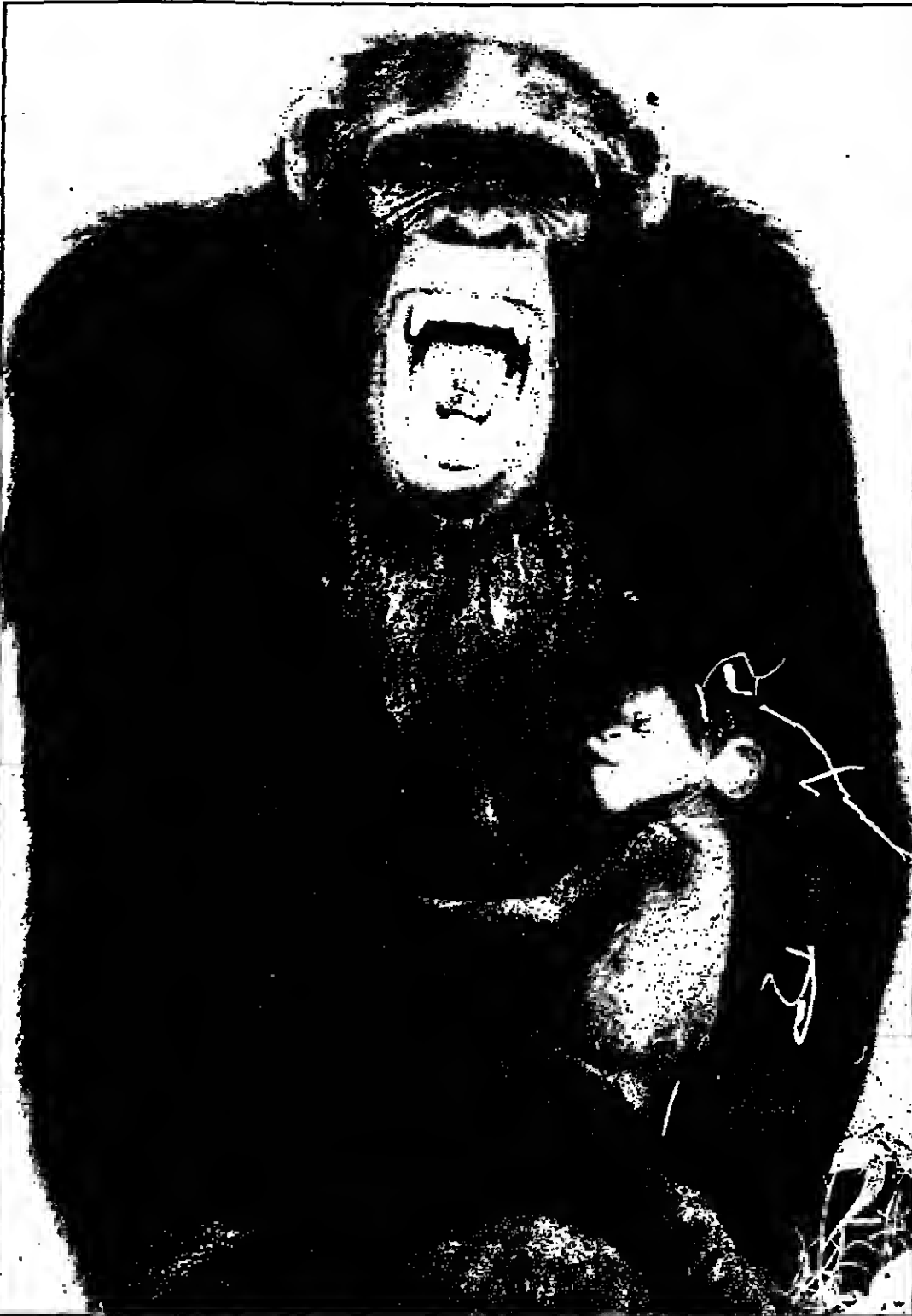
The more sophisticated kinds of consciousness, such as self-awareness and awareness of other minds, may well be beyond the cognitive capacity of most animals. One of the ways of testing self-awareness is the so-called mirror test. Only children over the age of 18 months, great apes and, possibly, dolphins seem to be able to recognise themselves in the mirror. However, Dr Celia Hayes, a psychologist from University College London, disputes the claims made for this test. "When most people talk about self-awareness, they mean that the individual with self-awareness knows certain things about their body, and they know these things consciously – for example, that it's mortal, that your body contains a unique mind. You can pass the mirror test without knowing that you're mortal or that you're unique – all you have to be able to do is to spot certain links or connections between your body and the mirror image."

Most animals certainly seem to have a physical awareness of their own bodies – they know where they end and the world begins, and consequently can fly, run or jump without major catastrophes – but few, if any, animals have the kind of self-awareness that Hayes describes.

The final hallmark of consciousness is understanding the mind of another conscious being and, again, there is only experimental evidence to suggest that our closest living relative, the chimpanzee, may approach this level of conscious awareness.

Professor Sally Boysen, from the University of Ohio, tested chimpanzees' understanding of other chimps' mental states. The worst thing that can happen to a chimp in her lab is vaccination: they are terrified of needles. Boysen approached a cage in which one chimpanzee could see her, and another could not. When the chimpanzee that had not seen her was allowed out of the cage (apparently to be vaccinated), the chimp that had seen her started to bark, erect its hair and pull an expression of fear while looking at the chimp that was ignorant of the situation. If Sally approached the cage with food, the chimp that knew what was going on made none of these warning signals to the chimp in the inner enclosure.

Boysen says these results show that the chimpanzees understand when another chimp is ignorant of a potentially dangerous situation.



Chimpanzees are able to warn fellow chimps of potential dangers

Havakuk Levison

"I've spent the last 24 years in the company of chimpanzees, and there's no question in my mind that they are sentient, conscious beings, who are ever processing what's happening around them. They're on an almost even par with us in terms of their abilities to reflect on themselves and others around them."

Not all animals may show the reflective self-awareness and aware-

ness of other minds that perhaps mould our consciousness, and many may indeed possess little conscious awareness. However, a number of species could be conscious – we may not know what their conscious awareness is like, but there is something that it is like to be a bat, a bird or a beluga whale, if not a bacterium. When I asked Dr Miriam Rothschild what it was like to be a dog,

she said: "I believe that dogs really see the world in a series of smells... and I often think that they have a rather poor life, because they live in a world where they only see everybody from the knee downwards, and with very nasty, smelly feet."

Sanjida O'Connell is the producer of *Are Animals Conscious?*, to be shown on BBC 2, 6pm, 30 January

UPDATE

THE COUNCIL of Europe is to vote today on whether to impose a moratorium on clinical trials of xenotransplantation, in which animal organs are transplanted into humans. The vote, which is expected to halt plans for trials, would be a political rather than a scientific decision, and probably not binding on member countries. But it reflects increasing worries that animals' DNA hides pathogens which could have drastic effects on human organ recipients.

THE WORLD has a brand-new, superheavy element. Or it did. A team at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research at Dubna, near Moscow, synthesised a new element containing 114 protons and 175 neutrons.

It was achieved by bombarding neutron-enriched plutonium with a calcium isotope. The as-yet unnamed element survived about 30 seconds – much longer than other synthesised elements, which last a few fractions of a second. Theory had predicted that element 114 might lie in an "island of stability" among the heavy elements, which the experiment seems to show.

RESEARCH FROM Holland suggests that DNA from ingested plants and food has a half-life of about six minutes in the human gut. It also found that genetically modified bacteria can transfer their genes to bacteria in the gut, if the two microbes are sufficiently closely linked (say, both from the *Enterococcus* family).

However, worries that the work, reported in *New Scientist*, could lead to new "superbugs" as food with genes for antibiotic resistance is eaten by animals, were discounted by John Beringer, head of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment. The risk of such events is very, very small, he said – and many people already have gut bacteria resistant to ampicillin, the antibiotic commonly used for resistant modified bacteria.

CHARLES ARTHUR

The Sky at Night column will appear in next week's science page

THE INDEPENDENT

Proudly support a D&AD President's Lecture.

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1999

The director of the cult movies *Absolute Beginners* and *Earth Girls are Easy* talks about his new film *Vigo*. Inspired by the work of the visionary French film-maker Jean Vigo, the film is a passionate portrayal of his life.

Questions and answers will be followed by a special preview of the film *Vigo* which precedes its theatrical release in the UK in the Spring.

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REVIEW

THE MILL

TECHNOQUEST

Q The Moon orbits the Earth every month. Why then isn't there a solar eclipse (where the Moon blocks out the Sun) every month?

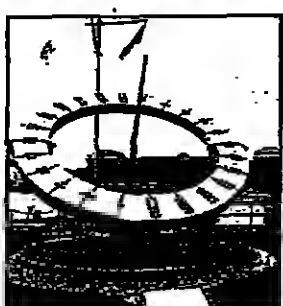
The Moon's orbit is tilted in relation to that of the Earth around the Sun by 5.2 degrees. The lunar orbit does not oscillate, so the moon's orbital plane does not rotate as the Earth rotates around the Sun. This means that an eclipse occurs only if the alignment of Moon, Sun and Earth is exactly right.

Q What uses does the *Asplasia* plant have? The genus *Asplasia*, a member of the *Compositae* (daisy) family, is certainly interesting: it has representatives from tropical America through to Africa and Madagascar. The total number of species recognised in the last revision was around 60. It finds uses in solving many medical problems including eczema, lumbago, sciatica, neuralgia and malaria. It also has antibacterial and antiparasitic properties. This is not to say that every species will have one or more of these uses, or that the usage is proven as effective, but it is certainly a good indication of the potential bioactivity of members of the genus.

One fascinating aspect about members of this genus is the way that primates, particularly chimpanzees, also appear to use them for their medicinal activity; indeed

it would seem that man may have originally learnt such uses from them.

Q Did England once have different time zones within it, as the United States now does? Not officially. However, before modern communications systems, when there was no way of telling people around the country what the exact time was, people relied on their local sunrise and sunset to set their clocks. As the sun rises and sets at different times across the



Time-keeping by the sun

country, this meant a difference in times between towns. The arrival of trains, and timetables, enforced unification around a common time.

Q Where is the temperature probe to measure the outside temperature located on a car, and why is it not affected by wind chill and/or engine temperature? The probe is under the front bumper, protected from wind chill (which only

really affects human beings anyway), and far enough away for its readings not to be affected by the engine's temperature.

Q Is it possible that a planet could orbit the double star system Sirius A and B? Sirius A is an A1 star, with 27 times the Sun's luminosity, while Sirius B is a white dwarf with only 0.02 times the Sun's luminosity. You can consider Sirius B as being in a very elliptical orbit around Sirius A. In fact, they both orbit their common centre of mass with the distance between them varying from about 7 to 29 AU – where 1 AU is defined as the distance between Earth and Sun. As it happens, Jupiter lies about 7 AU away from the Sun, and Neptune about 28 AU away.

Current theories suggest that planets are very unlikely to form in a close binary star system: the companion star (in this case Sirius B) would tend to throw the "building blocks" for the planets out of the entire system, disrupting their formation. Theory also suggests that only stars whose mass is less than 1.5 times that of the Sun will have orbiting planets; Sirius A's mass is 2.3 times greater than the Sun's.

You can visit the Technoquest World Wide Web site at <http://www.sciencenet.org.uk>



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THE INDEPENDENT

When night falls in the city, too many beautiful buildings simply disappear. It's time to light up, says Nonie Niesewand

Never darken my door

Michael Faraday's statue vanishes after dark. Ironic that the inventor of electricity has not even a single lightbulb to stop him disappearing like a genie, but he is just one of many London landmarks that need new lighting.

Big cities are transformed at night by the magical effects of light. But compared to New York or Paris, London sleeps with the lights off.

The saddest place is the River Thames, according to lighting designer Jonathan Speirs. Cruising down it in a motor-launch after dark, he reveals gaps in the skyline where substantial buildings just disappear at night. Somerset House is wiped out. Embankment Gardens outside the Savoy Hotel become a dense, black thicket. Cleopatra's Needle is missing. Waterloo Bridge turns forlorn and sickly. The church of St Magnus, which stands at the entrance to London Bridge, vanishes - which is why we haven't heard of it - while St Mary's, Gilbert Scott's crenellated wedding-cake of a church in north London has been put back on the map with adventurous illumination.

Other parts of London have blackout areas to match the worst lights of the Blitz. The parks, for a start, and Buckingham Palace most nights. And even when buildings are lit, many simply bleach out and look more like two-dimensional cardboard cutouts. Too much light is as bad as no light. Tower Bridge ceases to have the volume turned down. St Paul's, lit from one side to replicate moonlight, looks more like a parody of itself.

"My advice to the new mayor of London is to get a lighting designer to programme a concerted effort in the same way as Coventry, Liverpool, Edinburgh and Cambridge are orchestrating their city lighting programmes," says Jonathan Speirs. Or Lyon in France, where the mayor levies a small tax on all its citizens to light the city. Paid for by axes and funded partly by local business, the annual cost of maintaining the city scheme costs each council taxpayer £7 a year. "Fantastic city lighting, but they've gone for quantity, not quality," says Speirs, who be-

lieves some buildings should be plunged into darkness.

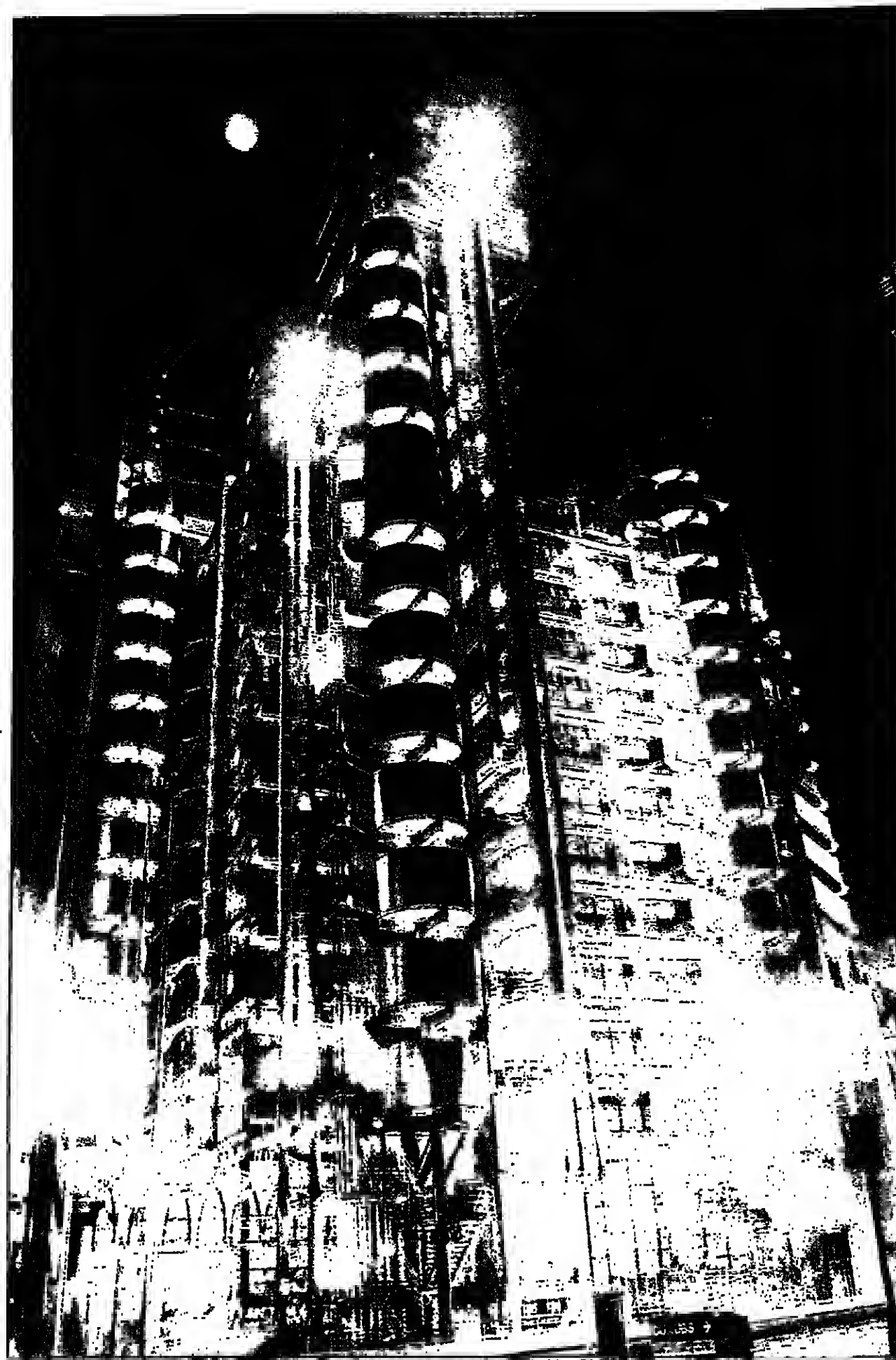
The Campaign for Dark Skies agrees. "Less light is more revealing," is the provocative message of campaigner Dr John Mason. Dr Mason mourns the loss of our greatest natural heritage, the sky at night. "Who can see the glimmer of the Milky Way in our bright skies?" Perhaps only one in a million stars is visible. Most of the problem stems from electric light that goes straight up toward the sky, illuminating nothing. Some of this wasted light even bounces off the atmosphere and reflects back on to Earth.

Good lighting is a good deterrent to crime. Since the Middle Ages when, on All Hallows' Eve, the Celts lit bonfires and lanterns to protect themselves and their crops from malevolent spirits, we have believed that light protects us from harm. Now, at night we flood our streets and car parks with light to scare off muggers. But all over the world, in cities and suburbs, a glut of outdoor lighting is obscuring our view. The Dark Skies Association, with branches in 32 foreign countries, is campaigning to do something about it, pushing for legislation against light pollution, hoping to restrict both municipal and private lighting.

They are supported by lighting designers who abhor the ugly, yellow bala that unfocused, wide beam lights bring to buildings such as Unilevers in central London. When Jonathan Speirs was invited by Croydon Council to light their suburban skyline, he had to win over Dark Sky campaigners to prove that the project had widespread community support before they could collect the £2m Lottery money awarded by the Millennium Commission. Thirty-eight buildings on Croydon's skyline will sparkle with kinetic, colourful light; what Speirs describes as a "bit of rock'n'roll". Councilors expect Croydon to take off, with more shoppers, winners and diners, and pedestrians enjoying the newly-illuminated nightlife.

Croydon won Lottery funding, but London First's application for similar funding to light central London's skyline was turned down. All the Lottery allocation went instead to the Dome, where the spotlight will fall at the turn of the millennium.

Stepping into London's Millenni-



Clockwise from above: Lloyd's of London (1986), voted best-lit building; the Millennium Dome, lit inside and out by Speirs and Major; St Paul's, two-dimensional by night, fakes moonlight; the Oxo Tower, darkened for a decade, now a London landmark after Lifschutz Davidson restored its red neon logo

um Dome at night will be like having a heavenly night-sky overhead. Purple-blue lights beamed from the floor will play upon the vast, spherical space to make it more intimate. Because the roof is translucent (to capture as much daylight as possible), that blue light at night will soften its profile so that the Dome

doesn't light up like a flying saucer. Inside, red and white light will play upon the lap circuit that runs around the central arena. By day, the light inside the Dome is white and cool.

"Visitors will definitely have to come twice to experience those very different climates created by day and night," says Speirs, who is

responsible for the lighting along with his partner, Mark Major.

To prove how lighting changes the character of a building, lighting manufacturers Philips built a model village outside Lyon, around a village square, scaled two-thirds down from life-size. A computerised light programme plays upon the model of a

neo-classical town hall. Simply by changing the light, the way the building is perceived alters. A welcoming glow at the entrance lures theatregoers inside, as the rest of the building is mysteriously wrapped in wraiths of silvery light. Pinpointed with light, like Harrods, it turns into a casino. As the Courts of Justice,

it takes on a steely, cold light that is authoritative and sobering. For the bank, the columns are illuminated as the props that stabilise the building. At night, its identity is established purely through light.

'Bright Lights, Big City' will be shown on ITV on 16 Feb at 7.30pm

This one's a real page-turner

It's as small as a pocket dictionary yet contains enough books to fill a small shop. The only drawback with my Rocket-eBook is its cost - about £300. By Miranda Seymour

OF THE nightmares I can still remember from childhood, none were so scary as the one about the nursery bookcase that reached all the way up to the ceiling. The books I wanted to read most, naturally, were the ones I couldn't reach. (How was I to know that the brown volumes on the top shelf contained the adventures of Little Rollo, a boy for whom every new day brought a fresh opportunity for virtuous deeds?) Scrambling up the shelves in my dreams to make a grab at these out-of-reach plums, I felt the bookcase rock and then lurch. The nightmare ended in a scream of fright as it swayed away from the wall and down to swallow me in darkness.

If only the electronic book had been around all those years ago. Who needs a wobbly bookcase when enough works to fill a small shop can be crammed

into a gadget the size of a pocket dictionary?

I'm in love with a book-shaped screen. Now let me tell you why.

I'm going on a long plane journey and can't make up my mind which book to take. No need to choose; I download 10 into my nifty little Rocket-eBook. My neighbour on the plane is desperate for sleep, doesn't like eye-masks - but my screen has a discreet back-light, throwing out no distracting flickers. I can read it for hours without bothering him, or causing my own eyes to ache.

Anybody used to reading on screen knows how uncomfortable it becomes staring at long lines of close print; the real genius of the new electronic book designers has been to produce a high-resolution screen with a proper book shape to it. You read on a "portrait" shape in-

stead of the conventional "landscape" based on a TV screen; the pages turn rather than scroll. It may not sound a big difference but, to the reader, it's everything. Electronic scanning becomes, for the first time, as easy and agreeable as reading a book. More so, if we're talking encyclopaedias; it weighs no more than a Dick Francis. Small as a paperback, but a lot more elegant, the Rocket comes equipped with what the manufacturers call "an ergonomically rounded edge" to fit into the palm of your hand as comfortably as a well-made book spine.

Maybe the best thing of all about this brilliant little invention from my point of view is that it gives me, for the first time, a way of spot-reading novels. These, as we all know, never come equipped with indexes. Suppose you want to

check the first appearance of Uriah Heep makes in *David Copperfield*. Simplicity itself with the Rocket-e: just type in the name and push the button. The answer's yours in less than five seconds.

They've thought of everything: you can annotate, browse, make bookmarks, check words in a dictionary, underline, switch the font... when you get bored with doing all that, you can just lay the "book" casually in front of you on a table and wait for somebody to ask where they can get one, and how it works. Don't expect to wait long.

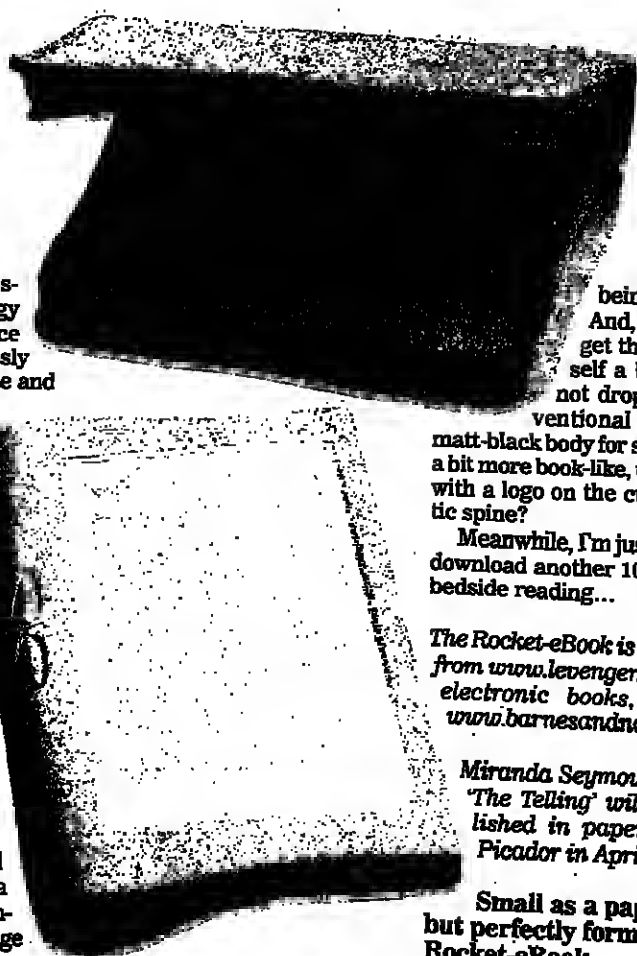
The makers see the biggest market for their invention in the professional readers of reference works, which are usually as weighty on the hands as on the purse. But there's no reason why the Rocket-eBook shouldn't be used in schools. If

the price came down to, say, £40 (from about £300 now), and the cost of buying books in electronic form could be substantially dropped, huge improvements could be made to the availability of information materials. Reading needn't be threatened by the electronic book but expanded and given a broader base. Think of hospitals, universities, old people's homes - all places where the price of books and space requirements act against the needs of readers. Think of smaller groups, of people who need to work on texts - translators, adapters, editors. The benefits to them of a gadget like this are incalculable.

There's no danger of the Rocket-eBook or its competitors in the field displacing the classics people will always want to own and handle; as a supplement, not a substitute, I can

see it becoming indispensable. Technology doesn't often produce something so obviously able to be of immediate and far-reaching benefit. All we need is for publishers to put their faith in the future of gadgets like this and start working out how to make books available for downloading at minimum cost.

This being a design page, I'll make a few suggestions for improvement. Page numbers would be a help, for making notes and giving the reader a better sense of location in the text. A horizontal screen shift, instead of a vertical one, would increase the sense of a page



being turned.

And, for a gadget that calls itself a book, why not drop the conventional grey or matt-black body for something a bit more book-like, tan or red, with a logo on the curvy plastic spine?

Meanwhile, I'm just going to download another 10 titles for bedside reading...

The Rocket-eBook is available from www.lepenger.com - for electronic books, contact www.barnesandnoble.com

Miranda Seymour's novel 'The Telling' will be published in paperback by Picador in April

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Laughter in the dark

Bruce Morton wants to share his adolescence with you. Don't panic: he's funny. By Veronica Lee

Death, cancer and family tragedy are not normal subjects of comedy. Unless you're Bruce Morton. In fact, the Scottish comedian's new show, *Blood Below the Window*, is labelled as being about "virginity, independence and learning to fly", but it darts between broad comedy – a robbery of train-cargo booze, the snuck-head kids he grew up with – and several painfully dark episodes.

Why is the show so dark? "I'm surprised you say that, because I think it's stories about small triumphs," he replies. "It's about trying to find who you are. Those stories are in there because if you want to find your independence you have to learn to take the rough with the smooth."

And how. In the segment of the show that gives it its title, Morton describes how, at 17, his family away, girlfriend in tow and desperate to lose his virginity, he climbed up the side of his house after locking himself out. He fell 22 feet and several bones, not to mention his priapic dreams, were broken.

"There I was, left for the first time as a responsible young adult on my own and that was my sexual awakening."

Morton makes the dark stuff as funny as the slapstick, in a beautifully paced show that draws the audience in with the funnies before the killer punchlines, so shocking and unexpected at times that audiences gasp rather than laugh.

He had wanted for some time to use his childhood but was unsure how to do it. "It was always there and I eventually wrote it down but I wasn't convinced I could do it in stage. My girlfriend told me to go for it, but I did wonder if it would come across as maudlin, or self-indulgent."

For someone who met with tragedy at an early age – his father's death from cancer and the accidental death of his teenage sister – Morton is remarkably "other now. Is it difficult to talk about those experiences on stage? "I've been there and lived them. To relate them is not difficult. It was an emotional drain I wouldn't do. And it has been cathartic, when people laugh,



Dead comical: Morton says that recalling his early life on stage 'has been cathartic'

you're not alone because it's laughter of recognition. My stuff is personal, but it wouldn't work on stage unless it had universality."

Surprisingly, his remaining family, – two younger sisters – have yet to see the show, even though it was a hit at last year's Edinburgh Festival. "It crossed my mind to talk to them before writing about the deaths, but

I didn't. I don't know that we've ever sat down and discussed those things at all." But does he have a right, in talking about his life, to be talking about theirs? "I own my life and I'm

telling it from my perspective." But even so... "Not if you do it with candour and sensitivity, and with humour to take the sting out of it. I don't think my sisters, who are fairly glibulous women, would be upset. I really do have the right to talk about anything I want." His expression becomes deadpan: "I speak as a recovering existentialist" and then cracks up.

Like many an autodidact, Morton relishes such a word. He grew up on a housing estate in Cambuslang on the outskirts of Glasgow, and his dad worked at the local Hoover factory. A bright lad, he left school at 16 and did a series of menial jobs and had a brief early marriage. Then in the space of a few months in 1984, Morton sold his home, left his wife, quit his job and went to college. "It was a weird convergence of events."

His quiet demeanour lends credence to the clichéd image of a dour Scot; however, Morton is anything but. He relates how delighted he was with the show's reception at Edinburgh where he performed, not in a club, but at the Traverse theatre. After 10 years on the stand-up circuit, Morton might be expected to move into television quiz shows – "I'd rather eat bees" – or even front his own show, a subject that causes the softly-spoken Morton to become animated. "And he's famous for presenting? A chimpanzee with a larynx could do it. How can Vanessa Feltz or Carol Smillie be paid millions more than people who keep the streets clean?"

Despite the success in moving his comedy into other areas he is reluctant to write anything serious. But if he did, would it be as dark as *Blood Below the Window*? Morton is adamant: "I think the show is quite affirming. It says bad stuff goes on in your life, but take a look back and search among the rubble and you'll find some gems there."

Blood Below the Window is at Heron Hampstead Old Town Hall tonight (01442 24282) and on tour until 28 March (details: 0171-287 5010)

Joker, rocker, lecher, potter

SOME COMEDIANS never feel obliged to change the record. Frankie Howard, for instance, went through his entire 50-year career using scarcely more than one line – "Doo, no, madam, no". Similarly, Johnny Vegas sees no need to alter his winning formula – a failed Butlin's entertainer who rails against the injustices of the world before finding solace in pottery. Some critics might be muttering that 18 months after he first exploded on to the circuit and prompted the tiresome slogan that "pottery is the new rock'n'roll", Vegas should be thinking of moving his schtick on. He certainly runs the risk of being a one-joke wonder, but if the one joke is strong enough, who cares?

Vegas avoids slipping into a monotonous caricature because – ironically for such a sturdy lad – he is so quick on his feet. Just when he seems to be falling into the embrace of a one-note rant, he dances free with some inspired repartee. He is particularly sharp with hecklers, seeing off one irritatingly vociferous punter at the Talk of London on Wednesday with a barrage of one-liners: "Your brain's a budge – don't bring it to a comedy catfight... I don't want to quote Top Gun, but your ego is writing cheques your body can't cash." When another heckler became too rowdy, Vegas made him sit like a naughty schoolboy at the back of the stage in a makeshift dunce's cap.

But it was with a quick-witted female volunteer helping him to throw a mug on his potter's wheel that Vegas really came into his own. Asked, in a parody of the film *Ghost*, to fashion an unambiguously phallic handle, she flirted with him shamelessly – "Are you going to fire it up for me later?" "If you're willing to push the act a bit further," he drooled, "we could do Amsterdam."

Later, the volunteer's speed

COMEDY JOHNNY VEGAS TALK OF LONDON



Johnny Vegas: bizarrely charismatic

off the mark almost made the unthinkable happen and rendered Vegas lost for words.

"I'm used to talking at women, not to them," he spluttered, "but every time I hit a ball over the net at you, it keeps coming back. I'm Tim Henman – I'm British and I'm quite good, but I'm out of my league here." "Are you seeded?" she responded, quick as a flash. "I've found my double act," he marvelled. "We could get a Christmas special out of this."

This interplay demonstrated just how well established the Vegas character is now. However unsettling a line is thrown at him, he just rolls with it. The Vegas persona – lecherous, bitter, self-pitying yet bizarrely charismatic – now fits his alter ego, Michael Pennington, like a tight potter's smock.

When it was used to signal an intermission in the cinema, the potter's wheel was a byword for boredom. How things have changed.

JAMES RAMPTON

Johnny Vegas is at the Talk of London (0171-394 5397) to Saturday and touring nationally in April

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What do gay men really want?

THERE WAS a West End play a few years back called *Straight and Narrow* which paid gay men the dubious compliment of effectively saying that they should be allowed to settle into the sort of monogamous domestic bliss enjoyed by Terry and June. It's not an option that would cause a stampede among the eight gay (or gayish) characters in Peter Gill's studiously knowing new play, *Certain Young Men*. Indeed, one of the guys, who is in what is optimistically termed a stable relationship, finds himself asking, "What are two grown men doing living together, taking all the stupidities of a fake straight relationship?"

The big enigma used to be "what do women really want?". To judge from this often sharply funny and occasionally moving piece, that question is as simple as sorting out the Pope's religion compared with the ineffable mystery of what it is that gay men, deep down, really want. These are certain uncertain young men. Directed

THEATRE CERTAIN YOUNG MEN ALMEIDA THEATRE LONDON

by the author on a stark, open-plan set scattered with a few chairs and props, and with all the characters remaining on stage throughout, the play hops around various difficult, wrangling relationships, laying out a tart smorgasbord of gay sadness and soul-searching. A crack cast perform the piece with a fantastic feel for its edgy spring rhythms but the proceedings sometimes veer dangerously close to dwindling into a mere *Sloane Rangers Handbook of Contemporary Gay Lifestyles*. One character, Robert, delivers a lengthy, preternaturally witty lowdown on the underlying prescriptiveness of these apparently free times and on the misleadingness of categories. Its full of coruscating insights ("The anger of us all at being biologically sorted. Look at straight men. Most straight

men are male impersonators") but it sounds as though it's being dictated for publication in *Attitude* magazine.

Elsewhere there is genuine drama, albeit of an oppressively nagging and chained-to-the-spot variety. Jeremy Northam and Andrew Woodall play, respectively, a gay obstetrician and a divorced bisexual whose small son seems to provide both a bond between them and a bone of contention. Andrew Lancel's character drives his ostrich-headed partner mad with his endless frettings about authenticity and the need to transcend cheap imitation ("I don't want a life. Life happens between those things"). Ironically, he winds up with Danny Dyer's brilliantly acted Terry, a straight-up-guy young chancer who has been left without a sincere bone in his body by his background of children's homes and abuse.

Starting and finishing the play, there's a relationship that makes Vladimir and Estragon in *Godot* look like dummies of decisiveness. These recurring

vignettes seem to be unfolding in the head of John Light's Michael who, in his apprehensive, sexually charged dealings with Alec Newman's Scottish bit of rough, keeps announcing "Or...". Whereupon the course of the scene takes an abruptly alternative route. It produces a dizzying, comically Cubist effect and powerfully increases

the atmosphere of pained disorientation. I have to confess, though, to not finding this unvaried evening uniformly riveting. Indeed, there were moments when I seemed to be living proof that you can be beside yourself with admiration and with boredom at the same time.

PAUL TAYLOR

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See Haymarket Theatre for details

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Unusual ways of eating spaghetti

DANCE PINA BAUSCH SADLER'S WELLS LONDON

YOU WANT Tchaikovsky and ballet shoes? Pina Bausch's *Viktor* has them, at least for a bit, although she deflates the effect by having the dancer wrap raw steak round her toes before tying on her slippers. And for the most part, Bausch is more inclined to trust the famous potency of cheap music.

Something unexpected always comes up, however familiar with her methods you become. More than a big laugh is intended (although she gets that too) when one of her women comes forward and solemnly announces, "I want to talk to you, seriously" while reaching inside her dress to hitch up her breasts. Bausch has something serious to say, but chooses to do it her own way: unpredictably, allusively, entertainingly.

You need to be alert to catch everything. Before we are 10 minutes into the show we have had a woman smiling although seemingly having no arms, an-

other rolled up in a big carpet, a third who is smothered under an overcoat to stop her singing and jiggling, and a couple who are "married" by one of their colleagues while lying on their backs, as though dead.

The *Viktor* who gives the work his name is the disembodied voice of a ghost who takes possession of a woman during a solo in which she moves frantically from the waist up while sitting on the stage and bumping slowly forward on her bottom. But might this interfering little man hidden under a black cloak also be *Viktor*, or is he Death, or Time, or something else again? Make your own choice.

Death and loneliness are among the work's themes, but

so are life and community. And what exhilaration there is in the chorus lines – on stage or passing through the audience – and in the sequence where the women take turns to swing on ropes high above the stage. You may learn, besides, some unusual ways of partnering, or even of eating spaghetti.

Bausch's company are fine dancers, but more than that, they are exceptional people too: before the evening is over you feel that you know them as individuals. Philistines may ask, "where's the choreography?". But Bausch's genius is for assembling highly varied material, manipulating its contrasts of speed, mood or genre, and shaping it so that gradually you see the pattern beneath. And she makes you care, she really does.

JOHN PERCIVAL

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

"...consistently intelligent, illuminating and engrossing."

Geoff Andrew - Time Out

Thanks to his two girlfriends, Blake's about to learn a new sexual position.

Honesty.

TWO GIRLS AND A GUY

STARTS TODAY AT SELECTED CINEMAS

Gillian Welch and David Rawlings are the country duo from hell. They write grim songs about mining and rape, and you can't line-dance to them. By Andy Gill

Welch and Rawlings: how to be a neo-traditionalist country songwriter when all the coalminers are robots

Welch and Rawlings tour London, Birmingham, Bristol and Manchester, beginning on Feb 3 at Sheffield Pheasant (0114-251 5014)



<http://www.garbage.com>

Slow death by self-satisfaction

GAY DAD had it sewn up before they started. Equipped with a riotously provocative name, they were never going to slip by unnoticed. To quote the band's frontman, Cliff Jones, "Gay Dad is the greatest name in history or the worst name you've ever heard." With two music journalists in the band they had all the right contacts, and the rumour that they were a spoof band formed to uncover A&R inadequacies afforded that vital element of controversy. The ink was barely dry on their recording contract before they were being touted as the future of rock'n'roll.

Expectations were running so high on Friday night that I began to feel pangs of sympathy for them in their seemingly insurmountable task. But

LIVE

GAY DAD/MANSUN
NME PREMIER SHOWS
ASTORIA
LONDON

I needn't have bothered. Gay Dad glowed as if they had just gorged themselves on special rock-star Ready Brek. Their streaky mop-tops gave them the perfect balance of glamour and grumpy indie chic, and there wasn't a thread out of place in their dishevelled attire.

Gay Dad's penchant for epic glam rock mixed with belligerent punk made for an enervating show. Their rallying cries of "come on" and "let's go" recall the high jinks of Supergrass - though even Supergrass might blush at the

line "Aerosmith rule!" - while there were periodic nods to Bowie and Bolan. The band's first single, "To Earth With Love," had been available for only four days, but the crowd recited it as flawlessly as if it had already been canonised among the classics.

Since they prefer to look back for their inspiration instead of forwards, it would be a pity if the future of rock'n'roll were in Gay Dad's hands. But they will pass the time pleasantly until something better comes along.

If Gay Dad looked pleased with themselves, Mansun were positively smug. The singer Paul Draper paid scant attention to his fans; instead he shuffled about the stage with an affected camp that was appar-



Gay Dad: not a thread out of place *Pangela Lubrano*

ently modelled on Jarvis Cocker's stage antics, but made him look severely unbinged.

Mansun's songs have a way of winding their way into your consciousness uninvited - I

was able to hum along with more tracks than I would have liked - but there is an air of conceit about them that outweighs their musical credibility. Prolonged instrumental sequences failed to hold the attention, while the epic quality of recorded material was notably absent. Worst of all were Draper's drama-school vocals. They were so nasal that I was shocked to discover that he had his mouth open at all.

If Britpop was a pastiche of the Sixties and Seventies, then Mansun are a pastiche of that pastiche. As they trawled unimaginatively through the songbooks of Blur, Elastica and Shed Seven, they served as a glaring illustration of how truly dead Britpop is.

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THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



SMOG
Knock Knock
Domino

THE NONCHALANT fatalism that marked Bill "Smog" Callahan's previous records continues to pervade *Knock Knock*, although his musical palette has suddenly expanded in strange new directions. It is Bill's typically obtuse attempt to make an album for teenagers: "... starting with the cover art, with its lightning and wildcats - those seem like things that teenagers identify with". Whether they'll identify with the music is another matter. Callahan's original "sadcore" stylings are still featured on songs such as "I Could Drive Forever" and "River Guard", but the sheer diversity - not to mention perversity - of his approaches makes *Knock Knock* hard to grasp at one hearing. The best way to describe it is probably as the country album *The Velvet Underground* never got round to recording, though even they might find the gap between "Let's Move to the Country" and "No Dancing" too big to span.

Bill also turns his hand to psychedelic garage rock in "Held", though the languor of "Sweet Treat", with its shreds of guitar dancing like insects in the last rays of sunlight, remains his true forte. Despite the recurring theme of movement, there's a strange stasis about the album, as if Callahan experienced the displacement in songs such as "Hit the Ground Running", "Let's Move to the Country" and "I Could Drive Forever" less as a physical than a spiritual sensation. Introspective and reclusive, dry and elusive, this is life in the inside lane, in every sense.



VARIOUS ARTISTS
Dave Godin's Deep Soul Treasures Vol 2
Kent

SOUL-ENCYCLOPAEDIA Dave Godin bestrides his chosen genre like a colossus - it was he, for instance, who coined the terms "Northern Soul" and "Deep Soul". This second compilation of rarities is, if anything, even better than its predecessor, mixing aberrant deep-soul sides from well-known belters like Ben E King and Arthur Conley with acknowledged classics such as George Perkins' "Crying in the Streets", Toussaint McCall's "Nothing Takes the Place of You" and Bessie Banks' "Go Now". And a wealth of obscurities from such as The Premiers and Bobby Moore & The Formosts - the late England captain in fine voice on the organ-powered pleader "It Was a Lie".

Godin's annotations, meanwhile, are always informative and often inspired - as when Nat Phillips' "I'm Sorry I Hurt You" is described as "Agitated, and, in an erotic kind of way, agitprop".



LUCIANO
Sweep Over My Soul
Xterminator/Jet Star

A FEW questions hang over the chequered career of Luciano. Such as: why call yourself Luciano, when your real name is as exotic as Jephthah McChymont. And, more pertinently, why the reggae singer once seriously considered a possible heir to Marley's throne should have failed so comprehensively to build upon the early promise of 1995's excellent *Where There Is Life*. He does, however, appear to have emerged from his largely unsuccessful association with Island the stronger for the experience, returning to his old home at Xterminator with faith renewed. The roots-reggae apocalypticism of songs such as "Final Call" is outweighed here by the militancy of tracks such as "Hold Strong", which finds Luciano "recruiting missionaries for Jah Army ... [to] blaze a fire throughout creation". Philip Fattis Burrell's production is light but forceful, with a nice relaxed snap to the grooves, and some neat touches.

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Kitchen-sink superstars

KENNY WHEELER'S *Angel Song* of 1997 was one of the best jazz albums of the decade, a melting pot of the trumpeter's melancholy tunes for a superstar quartet that eschewed the potentially disruptive presence of a drummer in favour of the guitarist Bill Frisell's lonesome cowboy wails. So ethereal are the album's charms that it has become a hit in kitchens throughout the land, its gentle, ruminative grooves providing a soundtrack to live by as much as to listen to. How the music would fare in the concert hall for this Contemporary Music Network tour was difficult to judge. With no washing-up to do, would the sound still command attention?

The setting of St George's provided a suitably ecclesiastical context for the almost devotional quality of the music, and the wonderfully airy aesthetic flattered the sounds of Wheeler's flügelhorn. Konitz's alto sax, Abercrombie's almost apologetically electric guitar and the deep, woody tones of Holland's double bass, to near perfection. Though at first the tuning was a little off, slowly but surely each instrument found its own level and before long

LIVE

KENNY WHEELER/LEE KONITZ/JOHN ABERCROMBIE/DAVE HOLLAND
ST GEORGE'S
BRISTOL



Kenny Wheeler: probably a genius *Patrick Hinely*

the whole hall seemed to be singing, the sound hanging suspended in the air like a hi-fi fan's dream. While most good concerts offer at least one moment where the listener just has to stop and say "Wow!", here there was an almost continual stream of suitably gob-smacking opportunities. Everyone knows that Dave Holland is a wondrous bass player, but the extent to which he amazed us was quite incredible, and all done without recourse to vulgar showboating. As a trumpeter (although he in fact played the conically-bored flügel throughout), Kenny Wheeler is unusual in that he neither wheedles nor whinnies, favouring instead a full, plangent, almost classical tone. In the lower registers there's a satisfyingly deep bottom, and at the high end he has made a language entirely

of his own, with breathy, expressionist smears that sound as though the air in the valves is shooting towards the surface like a submarine, spilling out aqueous waves of half-formed phrases as it rises.

On alto sax, Lee Konitz remains, at 71 years of age, an eccentric marvel. A student of Lennie Tristano's quiet revolution in jazz aesthetics, and part of the "Birth of the Cool" school with Miles Davis's nonet, Konitz has an effortlessly hip and indirect way with a solo. On the one standard of the night, a showcase feature of "Body and Soul",

Konitz sounded as Charlie Parker might have done if he had favoured tranquillisers.

Replacing the album's Bill Frisell on guitar, John Abercrombie was unusually restrained, but the combination of his off-centre chording and Holland's magisterial command of time provided a rhythmic section to be feared. By the end of two long sets, you were beginning to miss the lure of dishcloth and Fairy Liquid, but this remained one of the great jazz gigs. And although no one is likely to notice, Kenny Wheeler is probably a genius. *PHIL JOHNSON*

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Voulez-vous Boulez?

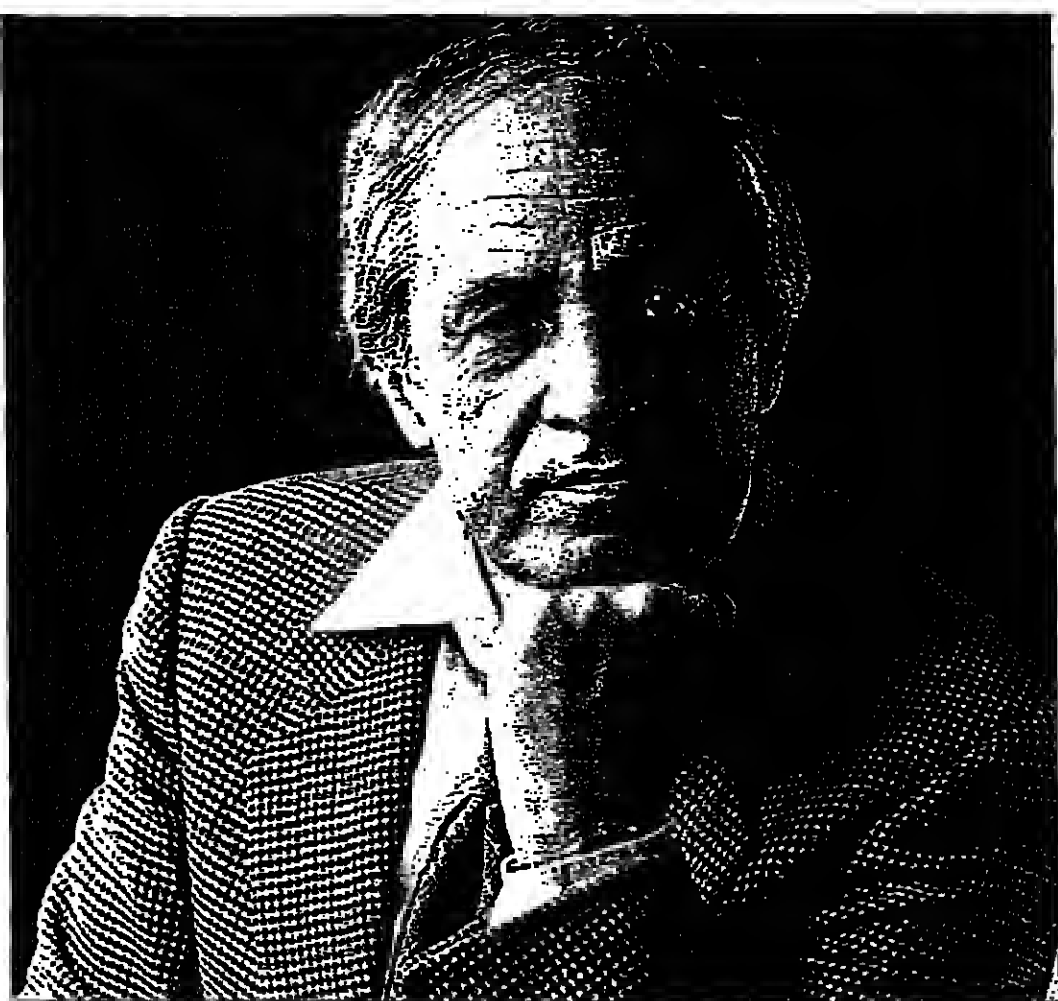
Modernist bête-noire or champion of the new? Either way, you can't ignore him: Now a TV profile and a flurry of concerts place the composer-conductor centre-stage. By Rob Cowan

Pierre Boulez is one of Europe's longest-standing musical radicals, daubed by one journalist as "an activist before he was an artist" and an unapologetic standard-bearer for creative honesty. Talking to him at the Paris Institut de Recherche et de Co-ordination Acoustique/Musique, or IRCAM, which he has directed since its government-funded inception in 1970, Boulez railed mercilessly against the idea of musical "elitism". "It serves as a smoke screen for people who are lazy," he told me candidly. "For me, that is all it is. Elitism camouflages their lack of responsibility. It is pure demagoguery." He speaks of elevating listeners rather than "sinking" with them to a lower level. "The lower you sink, the lower you stay," he says decisively. "It's not a question of progress, but of potentially stagnating in mud."

Boulez first came to prominence in post-war France when his fearless promotion of dodecaphony helped re-vitalise a musical culture that had been stunted under Nazi occupation. Russian new music was still frozen by Soviet cultural strictures, and so any moves towards a newfound creative freedom were widely countered by implacable opposition. "During this century we have seen the disasters of Hitler and Stalin bring culture to the lowest possible level," Boulez protests, "pressuring composers to write music that can be immediately understood, which, of course, means that it can also be immediately forgotten. Anyone who has not learned a lesson from these terrible times must be really sick."

The question then arises whether coded protests against oppression—whether political or otherwise—can ever make for great art. Shostakovich, for example, whose music Boulez never conducts, "I have to tell you that I have very mixed feelings about this music," he says. "It is often said that Shostakovich is the 'more recent' equivalent of Mahler; but I would say that to compare Shostakovich with Mahler is like comparing Meyerbeer with Wagner. The musical substance of his work is trivial. Okay, I can accept that he worked under great pressure, that he was afraid and that he rebelled discreetly. But, for me, that's not enough of an excuse."

And what about Shostakovich's more adventurous later works? Surely they are less sullied by compromise than some of his earlier pieces? Boulez is immovable. "By then, he was under less pressure—and that's all. It's very easy to listen to, but if you compare it with *The Rite of Spring* or the best works of Prokofiev—there's no contest. Shostakovich was at his best



Modern master: Boulez is as outspoken as ever about the direction of contemporary music

when he was young and spontaneous, and at his worst when he wanted to be heroic."

Other musicians straddle ideological extremes rather more easily. The conductor Sir Andrew Davis, for example, whose repertoire includes Shostakovich and who, on Monday night, will conduct an all-Boulez programme with the orchestra that the composer himself led from 1971 to 1975. The choice of programme—which includes the sensual *Le Visage nuptial* and the imposing *Notations*—is of Davis's own devising. Boulez himself had no involvement in its construction. "Once my pieces are written and printed, people can make what they want with them. But I think the sequence has been well chosen."

Boulez was a relative latecomer to conducting and traces a prominent curve of development from his earlier recordings to his latest work for Deutsche Grammophon. "I don't change my performances on purpose," he confesses. "It's more a kind of organic change. I listen to records I made years ago—perhaps of Debussy or Ravel—and know that I could do better now. When I was younger, I didn't take an orchestra's

individual sound into consideration; I would give much more than I received. But the more you technique improves, the freer you feel; you begin to listen, to sculpt the sound. When you are preoccupied with technique, you cannot establish a proper musical dialogue. I used to have some difficulty with tempo changes, but not now."

'People don't want to be disturbed. But we must not be discouraged by this lack of energy'

Boulez's latest recording ventures have included his own epoch-making *Répons*, one of the first releases in Deutsche Grammophon's trans-millennial "Music of Our Time" series. The importance of appropriate acoustical environments has proved a lifelong preoccupation. He prefers to conduct Wagner's music dramas only at Wagner's own Bayreuth opera house. "I cannot believe that this wonderful theatre was built as long ago as 1875 and has never

served as a model for anything more recent," he says. Boulez's favoured venue for *Répons* is the "Music City" building at the big La Villette-themed museum site situated to the north-east of Paris. "An ordinary concert hall will not do," he insists. "The space is not there and we must always fight against the architecture." He claims that the only performance of *Répons* (one of his most instantly appealing works) that has ever satisfied him was at the same venue, "where I could place the instrumental groups away from each other, conduct from the centre and have the audience in the middle of the hall".

The spatial requirements of *Répons* were realised on the recording with the help of a "Spatialisateur" computer programme developed at IRCAM, but when it comes to the use of video, Boulez finds that pop producers have the edge. "Look at a video on MTV and see the amount of technology it takes to sustain four or five minutes of music," he says. "It's amazing. You have a sort of fireworks display of equipment and effects. I find myself laughing at certain Baroque concerts on video where the camera leaves the or-

chestra and tours the church. There, your visual options are forced by somebody else—which is very disturbing when all you want to do is listen to the music."

The ongoing development of IRCAM—which now includes an expanded pedagogical department—goes hand-in-hand with the growth of La Villette. It is Boulez's ambition to build a bigger hall, improve the museum's coverage of 20th-century music and create a comprehensive media centre (to include books, CD, CD-ROM, DVD, Internet connections and so on). The idea is to relate existing facilities at IRCAM to those at the newly extended La Villette.

Boulez observes how our cultural history alternates warlike aggressiveness and peaceful repose. At present, we appear to be suffering the effects of cultural inertia. "Now that Europe enjoys a sort of balance between the two sides, and there is no immediate danger of a 'big fight', people have become lazy," he says. "They don't want to be disturbed. But we must not be discouraged by this lack of energy. I am sure the pendulum will swing back."

Maybe it has already begun to swing. On Wednesday evening, Boulez's recent work, *Sur Incises*, will receive its first London performance at the Queen Elizabeth Hall by the London Sinfonietta under the baton of composer George Benjamin. The concert will broadcast live on Radio 3, whereas later that night, on BBC2, a documentary entitled *Pierre Boulez: A Life in Seven Chapters* shows the composer in stimulating conversation with Radio 3 controller (and one-time BBC Symphony Orchestra producer) Roger Wright. When I spoke to Boulez, he hadn't yet seen the tape, though he seemed happy with enterprise. "I seldom do that sort of thing," he says. "I am not like an actor who speaks about his life and my activities. I compose a score, and people can judge me from that. The main source of communication for a musician, is either the work... or the performance. If people cannot imagine your world, then talking about it won't replace either the music or its performance—though, I admit, it can help."

Sir Andrew Davis conducts BBC SO at the RFP, SEC, London, Monday, 1 Feb at 7.30 pm (live on Radio 3). *Pierre Boulez: A Life in Seven Chapters*, is on BBC2, Wed 3 Feb, 11.15pm; *Sur Incises*, Q&A, London, 3 Feb, live on Radio 3. Boulez conducts his own *Ph salom pl*, recorded at the 1998 Edinburgh Festival and broadcast on Friday, 5 Feb, *Répons* and *Dialogue de l'ombre double* are newly released by Deutsche Grammophon.

Bullets over Brondesbury

SIGHT READINGS



MICHAEL CHURCH

WHY IS classical music—alone among the arts—so resolutely unpollitised? And why, when it tries to be political, are the results so pathetic? Consider Tan Dun's symphony for the Hong Kong handover, or Simon Rattle's "banned music" love-in with Islingtonian New Labour. On second thoughts, don't consider them at all. The opera director Peter Sellars may effectively politicise Handel and Mozart, but his new-minted collaborations with the composer John Adams don't hit the button. Tippett and Britten dipped a fashionable toe in political waters, and drew it out again; Hans Werner Henze dived in boldly, then found he wasn't in his element. Hindemith, Zimmermann, Shostakovich? No, for a satisfyingly full-blooded engagement between music and politics you have to go back to Verdi, the Romantics and Beethoven.

But opera composers still can't resist the challenge. Nigel Osborne returns to it year after year; one of his key works is an opera called *Sarajevo*. On Sunday, the Staatsoper in Hanover will host the premiere of *London Under Siege*, which carries on where *Sarajevo* left off. It is significant that its composer, David Wilde, is a colleague of Osborne's. Wilde's opera adopts the time-honoured formula of standing history on its head: while the citizens of Westminster starve in their basements—and get picked off by snipers whenever they make a foray for water—the comfortably affluent Bosnians hock all political attempts to lift the siege.

What brought this British-trained pianist-composer into the game? Pure accident, replies Wilde. He had been inspired by the heroism of Sarajevo's musicians to compose a cello tribute (which Yo-Yo Ma now performs). While visiting the city he got caught in Karadzic's blockade, and fell in with Goran Simic, a local poet, who both proposed the idea for an opera and, in three frenetic days, bashed out its libretto. The plot portrayed cruel domestic predicaments; the fuelling anger was directed both at the genocidal Serbs and at what Wilde terms "the smothering blanket of spurious neutralist terminology" with which the European media cloaked the ugly truth. Putting snipers on London's Monument was a necessary shock-tactic.

Wilde's compositions are theoretically atonal but in fact quite easy on the ear. "The great god who stands behind this new work is Alban Berg," he says. "But his archangel is George Gershwin." The staging will be symbolic. The Staatsoper agreed to host the show on condition that it didn't inflate its budget; the orchestra and two of the soloists are studying at the music academy where Wilde teaches, and are performing for free.

Among the guests on Sunday will

be the president of the cantos of Sarajevo, though Wilde accepts that there's no chance of putting it on in that city for the time being. Getting the orchestra in, he says, would be immensely difficult. But he would love to have the opera staged in London. Where? "Oh, by anyone who showed an interest. Any London critics coming? 'Not as yet.' So listen up: the last performance is on St Valentine's Day."

THIS WEEK, John Kieffer leaves Artangel to become the British Council's music officer. What will be his aim? "To update the image of Britain. To reflect a musical culture which is much more broad-based than the commercial pop and commercial classical industries." Meaning? "Folk, jazz, new forms of pop and rock. Electronic and dance music, and all the new fusions, hybrids, and crossovers." He's keen to export music in "club-type formats"; he's excited by cutting-edge manifestations of DJ culture.

A key aspect of British Council policy is to attract the younger generation abroad—to catch the opinion-formers of the future. Asked to name his favourite musical phenomena he throws in Mark Anthony Turnage alongside Asian dub music, and he thinks the world of the pianist Joanna MacGregor. He points to the Nikki Yeoh jazz trio's current Indian tour—interspersing their concerts with workshops for local musicians—as the ideal initiative.

But the British Council has for years been feeling the pinch; its tiny budget must be cleverly spent. Will he impose a policy change? "There will be some tweaking, in favour of non-classical forms," he replies. So there we have it. You can see what he means, and it certainly chimes with Blairism, but somehow I can't get excited about exporting DJs. Moving with the times is a far subtler business than simply spotting what's hot, when you're dealing with societies out of sync with your own. In unfamiliar climes, the cosy old string quartet can sound like the gods at play, rather than yesterday's oenias—as metropolitan trend-chasers like to think.

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THE TRICYCLE CINEMA (0171-328 1000) • Kilburn Bulworth 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pmLINGTON UPON THAMES
ABC OPTIONS (0870-902 0409) BR: Kingston Meet Joe Black 2.15pm, 7.15pm Practical Magic 2.25pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 2.10pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pmMUSWELL HILL
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Highgate Practical Magic 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare in Love 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Stepemom 1.05pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pmPECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Bulworth 9.00pm, 12.10pm Enemy of the State 3.55pm, 6.30pm, 9.05pm, 11.40pm Little Voice 4pm, 6pm, 8pm Practical Magic 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm, 11.50pm Shakespeare in Love 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm, 11.40pm The Siege 4.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm, 11.50pm Very Bad Things 4.50pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm, 11.55pmPUTNEY
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WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today times and prices for the next few running times include intervals. • Seats at some prices • Returns only Madness • (1) Sun, (3) Tue, (4) Wed, (5) Thur, (6) Fri, (7) Sat

ALARMIS AND EXCURSIONS
Michael Fray's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shakespeare Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) • Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 7.30pm, [7] 7.30pm, [9] 7.30pm, [11] 7.30pm, [13] 7.30pm, [15] 7.30pm, [17] 7.30pm, [19] 7.30pm, [21] 7.30pm, [23] 7.30pm, [25] 7.30pm, [27] 7.30pm, [29] 7.30pm, [31] 7.30pm, [33] 7.30pm, [35] 7.30pm, [37] 7.30pm, [39] 7.30pm, [41] 7.30pm, [43] 7.30pm, [45] 7.30pm, [47] 7.30pm, [49] 7.30pm, [51] 7.30pm, [53] 7.30pm, [55] 7.30pm, [57] 7.30pm, [59] 7.30pm, [61] 7.30pm, [63] 7.30pm, [65] 7.30pm, [67] 7.30pm, [69] 7.30pm, [71] 7.30pm, [73] 7.30pm, [75] 7.30pm, [77] 7.30pm, [79] 7.30pm, [81] 7.30pm, [83] 7.30pm, [85] 7.30pm, [87] 7.30pm, [89] 7.30pm, [91] 7.30pm, [93] 7.30pm, [95] 7.30pm, [97] 7.30pm, [99] 7.30pm, [101] 7.30pm, [103] 7.30pm, [105] 7.30pm, [107] 7.30pm, [109] 7.30pm, [111] 7.30pm, [113] 7.30pm, [115] 7.30pm, [117] 7.30pm, [119] 7.30pm, [121] 7.30pm, [123] 7.30pm, [125] 7.30pm, [127] 7.30pm, [129] 7.30pm, [131] 7.30pm, [133] 7.30pm, [135] 7.30pm, [137] 7.30pm, [139] 7.30pm, [141] 7.30pm, [143] 7.30pm, [145] 7.30pm, [147] 7.30pm, [149] 7.30pm, [151] 7.30pm, 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AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama about the life of Mozart. Old Vic, WC2 (0171-276 1616) • Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] 7.30pm, [7] 7.30pm, [9] 7.30pm, [11] 7.30pm, [13] 7.30pm, [15] 7.30pm, [17] 7.30pm, [19] 7.30pm, [21] 7.30pm, [23] 7.30pm, [25] 7.30pm, [27] 7.30pm, [29] 7.30pm, [31] 7.30pm, [33] 7.30pm, [35] 7.30pm, [37] 7.30pm, [39] 7.30pm, [41] 7.30pm, [43] 7.30pm, [45] 7.30pm, [47] 7.30pm, [49] 7.30pm, [51] 7.30pm, [53] 7.30pm, [55] 7.30pm, [57] 7.30pm, [59] 7.30pm, [61] 7.30pm, [63] 7.30pm, [65] 7.30pm, [67] 7.30pm, [69] 7.30pm, [71] 7.30pm, [73] 7.30pm, [75] 7.30pm, [77] 7.30pm, [79] 7.30pm, [81] 7.30pm, [83] 7.30pm, [85] 7.30pm, [87] 7.30pm, [89] 7.30pm, [91] 7.30pm, [93] 7.30pm, [95] 7.30pm, [97] 7.30pm, [99] 7.30pm

ANNIE Rags to riches story of the orphan, Victoria Palace Theatre, SW1 (0171-834 1317) • Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] 7.30pm, [7] 7.30pm, [9] 7.30pm, [11] 7.30pm, [13] 7.30pm, [15] 7.30pm, [17] 7.30pm, [19] 7.30pm, [21] 7.30pm, [23] 7.30pm, [25] 7.30pm, [27] 7.30pm, [29] 7.30pm, [31] 7.30pm, [33] 7.30pm, [35] 7.30pm, [37] 7.30pm, [39] 7.30pm, [41] 7.30pm, [43] 7.30pm, [45] 7.30pm, [47] 7.30pm, [49] 7.30pm, [51] 7.30pm, [53] 7.30pm, [55] 7.30pm, [57] 7.30pm, [59] 7.30pm, [61] 7.30pm, [63] 7.30pm, [65] 7.30pm, [67] 7.30pm, [69] 7.30pm, [71] 7.30pm, [73] 7.30pm, [75] 7.30pm, [77] 7.30pm, [79] 7.30pm, [81] 7.30pm, [83] 7.30pm, [85] 7.30pm, [87] 7.30pm, [89] 7.30pm, [91] 7.30pm, [93] 7.30pm, [95] 7.30pm, [97] 7.30pm, [99] 7.30pm

ART LARRY LAMB Jack Dee, Tim Healy in Yvonne Raza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) • Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] 7.30pm, [7] 7.30pm, [9] 7.30pm, [11] 7.30pm, [13] 7.30pm, [15] 7.30pm, [17] 7.30pm, [19] 7.30pm, [21] 7.30pm, [23] 7.30pm, [25] 7.30pm, [27] 7.30pm, [29] 7.30pm, [31] 7.30pm, [33] 7.30pm, [35] 7.30pm, [37] 7.30pm, [39] 7.30pm, [41] 7.30pm, [43] 7.30pm, [45] 7.30pm, [47] 7.30pm, [49] 7.30pm, [51] 7.30pm, [53] 7.30pm, [55] 7.30pm, [57] 7.30pm, [59] 7.30pm, [61] 7.30pm, [63] 7.30pm, [65] 7.30pm, [67] 7.30pm, [69] 7.30pm, [71] 7.30pm, [73] 7.30pm, [75] 7.30pm, [77] 7.30pm, [79] 7.30pm, [81] 7.30pm, [83] 7.30pm, [85] 7.30pm, [87] 7.30pm, [89] 7.30pm, [91] 7.30pm, [93] 7.30pm, [95] 7.30pm, [97] 7.30pm, [99] 7.30pm

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) • Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] 7.30pm, [7] 7.30pm, [9] 7.30pm, [11] 7.30pm, [13] 7.30pm, [15] 7.30pm, [17] 7.30pm, [19] 7.30pm, [21] 7.30pm, [23] 7.30pm, [25] 7.30pm, [27] 7.30pm, [29] 7.30pm, [31]

